



Case study

# A healthy workplace and less cleaning: it's a double win



**Customer**

GILOG GmbH.  
Gesellschaft für  
innovative Logistik



**Location**

Frechen (DE)



**Sector**

Logistics



**Dust reduction**

n/a

## At a glance

*“The staff feel the air is noticeably better and more pleasant. Our cleaning requirements have also significantly decreased. We are so pleased and wouldn’t hesitate to recommend Zehnder to others.”*

Frank Oelschläger, Founder and Managing Director of GILOG

### Challenges

At logistics company GILOG, high levels of dust are par for the course, both at the main site in Frechen and at another site in Bergheim. This is especially true in areas where there is a high turnover of goods or where there were a lot of people working – for example, in the electrical returns section. Here products have to be unpacked, checked for damage, cleaned and repackaged. This creates a lot of dust, which is stirred up and dispersed as employees move around. It all creates the need for an exceptionally high amount of cleaning and was also affecting employee health.

### About GILOG GmbH

GILOG specialises in high-quality logistics services for industries such as healthcare, lifestyle and electronics.

### Benefits

Thanks to the air cleaning systems installed by Zehnder Clean Air Solutions, GILOG has found it’s possible to reduce the amount of harmful air pollution by up to 85%. This has drastically reduced the amount of cleaning that’s needed in the shipment hall and in the returns area. Employee wellbeing has also improved, with staff saying they can now breathe easier and feel more comfortable thanks to the cleaner, healthier air. Another positive is that the air movement created by the Zehnder system has improved heat distribution at the site.



### Logistics services made to measure

GILOG was founded in 2003 in Frechen as a service provider for high-quality logistics. With its highly experienced team, GILOG not only offers the full range of services expected of a modern logistics provider, but goes the extra mile. Its portfolio includes analysis, eCommerce solutions, freight management, warehouse logistics and the unique GILOG quality seal. Today the company works from two locations, in Frechen and Bergheim, and employs 75 people processing up to 2,500 shipments every day. The focus is on the electronics, health and lifestyle sectors, and customers come from across Europe and the USA

### Dust makes life difficult in logistics

Wherever there is packaging, storage and order picking, there will also be a large amount of dust. This is especially true when cardboard is involved – the dust gets everywhere, settling on goods and equipment. The problem increases when goods are stored for longer periods, such as overnight or for the weekend. This is a particular issue with health products, where cleanliness standards are extremely high. To complicate things further GILOG not only stores the actual products from the manufacturers, but also all the associated marketing materials. GILOG’s priority therefore is to protect everything it is handling from dust and dirt.

Frank Oelschläger, Founder and Managing Director of GILOG, explains: **“We consider it important to have warehouses that reassure customers that they can store their goods here with peace of mind.”**

“One of our customers, for example, is a manufacturer of products supplied to dentists and orthodontists, who are a demanding clientèle. If the goods were dusty, there would be immediate complaints.” GILOG went to considerable lengths to prevent problems with dust, regularly cleaning affected areas, and deep cleaning once a month with a special machine. This cost time and money, to say nothing of the damage to workers’ health from all the dust they were inhaling. GILOG needed a solution.

### A trade fair discovery

In search of an answer to GILOG’s dust problem, including a possible new cleaning system, Frank Oelschläger visited the LOGIMAT logistics trade fair. And there he found a solution that began right at the dust source: air cleaners from Zehnder. These systems remove pollution particles from the air before they can disperse through the workplace. Initial discussions with Zehnder experts at the trade fair piqued Oelschläger’s interest and he decided to take a chance on a test run with a single device at the headquarters in Frechen. **After the first dust level readings, the company convinced and kitted out the entire site with Zehnder’s air cleaners (incidentally, the final readings**

## showed an average reduction in harmful airborne particles of up to 85%).

Based on this positive experience, GILOG started a similar project at the Bergheim site two years later. Electrical goods returns at Bergheim are processed on a mezzanine floor, where employees open up the packaging, unpack the devices, check their condition, clean them and repackage them for possible resale. This created an enormous amount of dust, which literally piled up in the confined mezzanine space – leading to high cleaning costs and a heavy cleaning workload for the staff. But once GILOG installed Zehnder's hi-tech devices in Bergheim, the dust problem was history.

## Hardly any cleaning, great air quality – and a professional appearance

What, specifically, has changed at GILOG? First of all, the cleaning requirements have been massively reduced, saving considerable costs. The employees have also noticed a difference. Oelschläger: "I got a lot of positive feedback: the air is noticeably better, you can breathe easier, your nose is no longer so dry, and you don't have to drink as much."

**And last but not least, visitors also noticed the Zehnder effect. One customer even said he had never seen such a spotless storage area. In other words the air cleaning system is helping GILOG's corporate image.**

Annalena Gatzien, Assistant to the Managing Director, elaborates: "For us, using Zehnder is a bonus feature that we communicate to our customers. We point out that we use these air cleaning devices to keep the goods dust-free for longer."

## A flexible solution

In addition to the excellent performance, the flexibility of the Zehnder solution was a decisive factor in GILOG's decision. This is because the requirements of a logistics site are constantly changing depending on the customer and the task in hand. And where yesterday there may have only been a few employees, today there could be many more. It means that the air cleaners have to be as mobile as possible to adapt to any changes – a feature of Zehnder Clean Air Solutions' devices, which can be repositioned without much effort.

There was another benefit to the new air cleaners that Oelschläger had not anticipated. One Sunday, he came in to find the warehouse was pleasantly warm and assumed they had forgotten to turn off the heating. But this was not the case – as he found out on the Monday. The reason for the warm temperature was that the air cleaning systems, which run around the clock, channel any warm air that rises and accumulates on the ceiling, back down towards the floor – a very welcome effect in the colder seasons. **"The partnership with Zehnder is excellent,"** says Thomas Stiller, who is responsible for GILOG's Security & Technology. **"We're so impressed by what they've achieved that we would strongly recommend them to anyone."** "In addition, we are also currently planning to apply for a number of certification standards, so we're looking into how the Zehnder air cleaning devices can support this."