

## HCP, an SAS International Group Company

### **Dutch-fold anti-ligature radiant heating panels**

The principle behind radiant heating panels involves the bonding of a serpentine copper heating element to the rear of an aluminium panel. Mounted in the ceiling or freely suspended from the soffit, hot water flows through the element creating a warm surface. Like the sun's rays this warm surface emits electromagnetic radiation, heating room occupants, contents and surfaces directly. Because large volumes of air do not need to be heated before occupants feel the benefit, the use of radiant heating panels can lead to a reduction in the amount of energy needed to heat a space. SAS International, through its specialist heating division HCP, has developed a new anti-ligature radiant heating panel for use in secure facilities such as mental health units and prisons.



#### What is innovative or new?

The new 'Dutch-fold' design allows radiant heating panels to be directly mounted to the ceiling without the need for a separate mounting frame; this is a unique method of manufacture.

The material used to construct radiant heating panels is 'folded' back upon itself. The design helps to reduce installation time and ensure panels sit tight to the ceiling and a ligature can not be affixed.

#### How are benefits delivered?

Ceiling-mounted Dutch-fold anti-ligatures panels create a safer and more secure environment for both patients and inmates by reducing the chances of accidental burning and reducing opportunities for self-harm.

Radiant heating solutions are increasingly specified in the healthcare and educational sectors, where the benefits of freeing up floor and wall space, and integration with natural ventilation strategies are well recognised. Additionally they can contribute towards reduced cleaning regimes and help meet infection control targets by reducing the cross infection risks associated with other systems.

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