

Scope & Interface Risk

The problem

Most cold-chain disputes are scope-gap disputes between civil, refrigeration, electrical, controls, racking and dock trades. Whoever owns the interface owns the risk — and its cost.

Mitigations checklist

- For projects >€10M CAPEX, prefer a single EPC or turnkey contract over multi-package procurement.
- For multi-package procurement, appoint an owner's engineer with formal interface authority.
- Freeze a P&ID, single-line and general-arrangement package before contract award.
- Use a written scope-of-supply matrix — every item marked 'By Supplier', 'By Owner' or 'By Others'.

Contract clauses to insist on

- Design responsibility assigned to a single party per system.
- Change-order procedure with pre-agreed unit rates for common variations.
- Site-management responsibility and welfare clearly assigned.
- Interface deliverables list (loads, penetrations, tie-ins, control signals).

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