Glycol chillers are key components to long draw dispense systems. Chilled glycol helps to maintain the temperature of draught beer in the beer lines between the keg and the faucet. Glycol chillers are much less expensive to maintain than they are to replace; regular maintenance will increase both their service life and dependability. Here are some recommended maintenance practices; be sure to check with your manufacturer for items and procedures specific to your chillers.

- Glycol bath: Keep the cover of the glycol bath closed to prevent water vapor from diluting the strength of the glycol.
- Glycol bath temperature: Check every two weeks, making sure the bath temperature is within the range specified by the manufacturer. Many chillers have temperature gauges that are easily visible from the outside.
- Check motors monthly for smooth-sounding operation and no signs of overheating.
- Glycol strength: Check viscosity and condition of glycol-water cooling mixture every six months. Test freezing point every 18 months with a refractometer or hydrometer and adjust or replace glycol mixture as needed. Typical ranges are 20-25% glycol; be sure the glycol concentration follows manufacturer recommendations.
- Check pumps monthly; check connections and insulation for leaks or missing insulation, and for smooth-sounding operation.
- Inspect condenser monthly for dirt and airflow obstructions and clean as necessary. Remove and clean grills to expose the condenser fins. Remove all contaminants from the fin surface by using a stiff bristle brush, vacuum cleaner, or compressed gas discharged from the fan side of the condenser.
- Visually inspect trunk lines every six months for signs of ice buildup, insulation damage and glycol leakage.

For more information on draught system cleaning or other components of a draught beer system, visit the Brewers Association’s Draught Beer Quality Manual at: www.draughtquality.org