



A-Safe delivers the goods for DHL

Leading logistics company, DHL operates a number of depots around the UK. The very nature of the business means that both personnel and vehicles are in close proximity on these sites at all times throughout the day, so effective pedestrian/vehicle segregation is of the utmost importance. To ensure this, DHL have had A-Safe barrier systems supplied and installed at a number of the company's depots to effectively



Warehouse traffic segregation

protect its workforce, while cutting down on maintenance and repair bills. A-Safe has worked successfully with DHL for a number of years across several locations in the DHL network and has proved itself as a reputable, reliable and ultimately cost saving supplier for them. So much so, in

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Sophia Forrester at DHL

fact, that A-Safe is DHL's preferred supplier for safety barrier systems with a contract until at least 2012.

Sophia Forrester at DHL said: "A-Safe has played a major role in the development and improvement of health and safety systems across our sites. Trial upon trial at various locations has proven A-Safe's worth and therefore it was a natural choice to place them as a preferred supplier in this area. We cannot underestimate the importance of having the right systems in place that not only do their job efficiently and effectively but also provide cost savings for the company."

For instance, at DHL's 225,000 sq ft distribution depot in Livingstone, A-Safe has provided dramatic benefits over and above the conventional metal racking barrier

systems. These had been extremely costly, especially in terms of repairs, following the inevitable accidents that can occur in a busy, fast-moving environment with around 400 employees on-site at any one time. Because of this, the company took the decision to trial A-Safe's new single rail rack end barrier. This proved so successful in cutting expensive damage bills that DHL subsequently embarked on a long-term programme to install a whole range of A-Safe products throughout the warehouse including rack end protection, pedestrian barriers and door protection bollards. Apart from eliminating the need to constantly repair or replace the barriers and the concrete fixings with their attendant cost savings, A-Safe products are highly visible to all staff.

Steven Wallace, Engineering Manager, comments: "In the past we protected our racking with steel hoops set in concrete. As accidents do happen in a warehouse, we constantly had to repair both the barriers and the concrete, which led us to carry out some initial trials with A-Safe. The General Manager was so impressed that we ordered further quantities of the protector systems and we're now converting our whole site to A-Safe. In the time we've had A-Safe installed, we've found that thanks to its polymer-based construction, there is much less damage to vehicles than previously. It's certainly looking like it will be cost-effective

in the long run and it offers excellent protection and safety too."

DHL's Doncaster depot is another location where A-Safe systems have proved highly successful. A number of A-Safe products are now installed, both internally and externally, throughout the 305,000 square foot depot including pedestrian rails, traffic barriers and gates. With around 800 people and, of course, numerous vehicles on the site at any one time, these products play a vital role in traffic and pedestrian segregation.

Paul Riley, the depot's Location Support Manager takes up the story: "When we first looked at A-Safe, we knew that initially it would be quite expensive, but that in the long term, it would work out to be more cost effective, due to the greatly reduced need for maintenance. This has certainly proved

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Paul Riley, Location Support Manager

to be the case, as repairs have been cut to a minimum and there's no need for replacement after an impact. A-Safe also looks better than traditional steel barriers and, most important of all, it makes day-to-day life on the site so much safer."



Protecting People



Property



Profits



and the environment



A-Safe products have recently been introduced at DHL's Thetford depot. The warehouse is undergoing a complete revamp and, as part of that, rack end barriers have been trialled with excellent results. Paul Durham, the depot's Health & Safety Manager, says: "We've found A-Safe

collisions occurred. A-Safe is so much more durable and we're expecting to make cost savings in the long run. Also, the A-Safe team were really helpful when the barriers were being installed." A-Safe products have also proved their worth at DHL Trade Team depots, which

reduces the severity of any on-site accident, deflecting impacts away from the racking and helping the site to run smoothly and efficiently. These have proved so successful, that other A-Safe products have now been installed on all three sites. Stephen Fletcher, Facilities Department



Protected walkway



Warehouse and logistics protection



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Paul Durham, Health & Safety Manager

rack end barriers to be a great product. Before, we just had steel barriers, which bent and buckled after the inevitable

Warehouse Racking Safety



Inspect racking regularly to make sure it is repaired and maintained properly and is safe. You should use three types of inspection:

- immediate reporting of damage and defects;
- visual inspections at regular intervals; and
- 'expert' inspections carried out at intervals by a competent person.

HSE Warehousing and storage: Keep it safe

specialise in delivery services for the licensed trade. At the 165,000sq ft site in Coleshill, Warwickshire, rack end and pedestrian barriers have been installed and as Tom Cassin, Facilities Manager says: "With large quantities of cans and bottles held in the depot, it's important to have effective protection of all stocks and that's just what A-Safe provide. They also look a lot smarter than the old metal barriers we had, as they don't get dented." A-Safe works closely with customers to provide systems, which are tailor-made for their needs. For instance, DHL Healthcare in Banbury is a pharmaceutical distribution centre, operating across three sites, and A-Safe, in conjunction with the facilities team, designed a new style double rack end

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Stephen Fletcher, Facilities Department Team Leader

barrier to help protect the racking storage in the warehouse. The racks are over 10m high with very narrow aisles between them, specifically designed for storing valuable medical and health supplies. The A-Safe model, developed for this application,

Team Leader explained: "We were so pleased with our original A-Safe installation, that since then, whenever the old metal barriers needed replacing, we've chosen A-Safe and we now have a whole range of products installed including single and double height pedestrian barriers and racking ends. Although A-Safe products may be initially more expensive, they are far more cost-effective in the long run in terms of reduced damage and maintenance and of course, increased safety."

- A-Safe played major role in the development of safety strategies throughout DHL depots
- A-Safe barrier of choice for all DHL depots
- A-Safe used to protect staff from traffic and in workstations
- Racking protection developed in conjunction with DHL to protect high value goods
- Big improvement in site safety making day-to-day life easier