

Safeaid: Carbon-neutral PPE for the rail industry

December 14, 2021



Safeaid launches the UK's first complete range of rail PPE that is carbon-neutral.

Leading specialist supplier of PPE and safety workwear to the rail industry, Safeaid, can now offer its customers a complete range of rail PPE that is carbon-neutral.

In an industry first for the UK rail industry, the company is looking to lead the way with its Signal product range and through this initiative, not only reduce its own carbon footprint but provide the platform to help the organisations it supplies, reduce theirs.

Richard Bowen, Managing Director of Safeaid, said: "It is vital that all the decisions we make consider climate change as a key factor. That is why we've been looking at sustainability for a long time.

"There is, understandably, huge pressure on businesses to lower their carbon footprint and our customers, just like us, are keen to play their part.

For companies like ours to actively engage in climate action by selling climate neutral products and

services, we are taking responsibility for our unavoidable emissions by offsetting them. This in turn enables our customers to make climate-conscious decisions and sends a clear message to their workforce as well as those involved in the projects they work on.

The launch comes as organisations in the rail industry are looking at all aspects of their business in a bid to support the government's target of being net-zero by 2050.

Around two-thirds of the railway's emissions are generated by suppliers. However, the industry is working hard to change that. Last month, Network Rail's Commercial and Procurement team said it had secured commitments from 50 per cent of suppliers to join the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) to reduce their carbon footprint.

Network Rail has adopted science-based targets to reduce carbon emissions to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. Its Environmental Sustainability Strategy includes a target for 75 per cent of suppliers to have their own science-based targets by 2025.

Richard added: "The process for us involves providing a lot of data in terms of all the items we produce. From this, the carbon emissions are accurately calculated and offset through a range of projects we support. The second part involves reducing emissions through developing sustainable climate action strategies. Everything is independently audited by a bone fide third party.

"We're delighted to launch our carbon-neutral PPE products, playing our role in tackling climate change, and at the same time helping our customers meet their targets.

The launch of the carbon-neutral PPE products comes as Safeaid's flagship rail brand, Signal, marks its tenth birthday.

Richard said: "Signal was launched when we identified a gap in the infrastructure sectors for high quality, great value, fit for purpose PPE. From this we developed our Signal range of rail workwear and PPE with attention to detail, comfort and practicality for the style conscious user being at the core of our workwear designs.

The decision to manufacture has also given us other advantages in that we have full control over supply and are not reliant on UK wholesalers.

"By working closely with health and safety professionals and frontline workers, we were able to create a range which exceeds the required standards and remains comfortable to wear, shift after shift.

Affectionately regarded as the industry's best-loved brand, it seems fitting for Signal to become synonymous with sustainability.

"We are passionate about making sure those working in the rail industry have the right PPE to ensure they can do the job safely. Key to this, is knowing specific rail standards and being able to advise on the correct equipment for the job.

“We don’t just supply PPE, we provide a full service offering to our customers based on what the market wants, including the fastest turnaround for branded PPE and an industry leading PPE management platform which has been proven to save customers up to 20 per cent on their annual PPE spend.”

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