Successful start to global colour light signal trials

Recently Dorman has been conducting a number of product trials on its LED Colour Light Signal. Initial feedback suggests that the signals are performing above and beyond all expectations, and the trials are providing excellent data, which will be used to support overseas expansion and also to further strengthen the UK product information base.

The trials have been carried out at locations throughout the world as part of Dorman's overseas growth strategy, where the company is focusing on demonstrating that the proven LED technology being widely used in the UK rail industry is ideal for transferring to overseas rail systems.

Performance in adverse conditions

One of the major objectives at a trial site in North America is to demonstrate that the Dorman LED signal will function perfectly in a harsh climate where winter daily average temperatures of -12° Celsius are considered normal, often for weeks on end. A main requirement of the trial is to demonstrate that the signals perform consistently in these arduous conditions, which often include ice and driving snow.

Capitalising on Dorman's experience of introducing signals into harsh weather areas of the UK, the standard variant of the highly successful LED Colour Light Signal was deployed without requiring any modification to suit the local environmental conditions.

Installation and maintenance

The built-in optical sighting device installed on the LED Colour Light Signal was particularly well received by the signal siting engineers who appreciated the enhanced clarity and accuracy of this device, which features a magnifying lens and engraved sighting ring. They considered it to be far easier to use than the pinhole sighting device currently available on existing filament signals, especially at locations with challenging access conditions.

One of the main advantages the Dorman LED signal delivered when it was introduced into the UK market was its capability to perform all maintenance including lens cleaning entirely from the rear of the signal in a place of safety. The rail industry throughout the world has followed the UK lead on a strong commitment to reducing the risk of maintainer accidents. One of the core principles in this approach is that workers should never be exposed to situations with increased risk like when the engineer has his back to approaching trains.

This trial of Dorman's LED products internationally, supports the company's desire to be at the forefront of design, development and manufacturing expertise within the LED signalling arena for the wider rail industry, whilst continuing to support the UK market with a complete range of LED signalling solutions.

Dorman has over 25 years' experience providing LED signalling for the rail industry and currently has a range of nearly 500 separate catalogue items in use across the UK rail network.

Unipart Rail and Dorman awarded LED signal heads contract

Unipart Rail and Dorman have been successfully awarded a framework contract by Network Rail to supply colour light and banner signals to the UK railway infrastructure industry. Dorman, with its wide range of LED signalling products, is the market leader in this field and currently has approximately 60,000 LED products installed and in use across the UK railway network.

Innovation and continued development of new technology have enabled Dorman to gain its strong market position. It has also allowed the company to consolidate its position as one of the most significant suppliers to the UK railway industry.

Unipart Rail and Dorman will provide further updates on the detail of this contract and also the publication date of the latest version of the Dorman LED Handbook, in due course as they become available.

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