

Unipart Rail lights the way for track and infrastructure workers

Unipart Rail's new range of lighting sticks and light shapes help safety and productivity at track and infrastructure worksites. Light sticks are already installed in many UK rail passenger coaches for use in emergency situations at night or for tunnel evacuations.

Other uses

Following a number of product demonstrations and trials, in addition to working closely with David Sowter, Health and Safety Advisor, AmeyColas, and Shelley Winfield, Health and Safety, Track, Network Rail, Unipart Rail has helped identify a number of specific uses for light sticks and light shapes at infrastructure and track worksites. These will provide significant safety and productivity benefits.

The complete range of light stick/shape technology can be applied in a number of ways as Unipart Rail has identified:

- Identifying boundaries and safe areas of work.
- Identifying safe routes and pathways.
- Emergency lighting.
- Identifying hazards.
- Highlighting key staff/work areas.
- Illuminating work areas.
- Illuminating areas (without mains lighting) e.g. portable welfare units and safe walking routes on remote sites.

To meet the requirements of working shift patterns, the range has been developed (in conjunction with Unipart's supply partner Cyalume) to increase the effective working use to a minimum of eight hours. This ensures that the light output quality lasts and is consistent throughout the entire night-shift. Network Rail advises the use of specific coloured and shaped products for different



uses to ensure consistent deployment across the network by all work crews.

Demonstration

Unipart Rail demonstrated the benefits of the light sticks and light shapes at the Network Rail Contractors Safety Forum, which took place at the Fire Service College at Moreton-In-Marsh on November 24th. In addition to the light sticks, Unipart Rail also demonstrated other safety products including:

- LED handlamps from Dorman.
- Photo-lumin signs.
- Lockout devices.
- ST-CRID - The Self-Testing Current Rail Indicator Device (ST-CRID) is a portable traction voltage indicating device for use in fourth and third rail areas. It provides a visual warning of the presence of traction voltage between the conductor rail and the traction return rail. It is also capable of detecting and indicating the presence of other unsafe voltages within the parameters below on a given section of track.

■ **Blocking Back** - An LED lit sign which is designed to increase safety at level crossings by warning drivers of the risk of entering a level crossing zone and not being able to pass through safely.

David Sowter, HSE advisor, Amey Colas, commented: 'Working with Unipart Rail to develop the lighting stick/shape technology for use on the infrastructure during the hours of darkness has resulted in a significant step forward to increasing worker safety and productivity.'

