



Our flexibility is our strength



A-Safe delivers the goods on safety for ASDA

Supermarket giant ASDA/Wal-Mart is achieving the highest standards of safety within its warehousing operations in the UK with the help of safety barrier specialists A-Safe and its unique polymer-based barrier systems.

As one of the top four leading grocers in the UK and a subsidiary of American retail giant Wal-Mart, ASDA is responsible for the safety of over 12,000 people across its depots and stores. It's warehouses and distribution centres in particular are high risk sites, with machinery, equipment, racking and vehicles moving through the site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A-Safe has been instrumental in working with ASDA on its key northern distribution centre in Normanton, converting the existing warehouse site into a main hub for the supermarket network. Following some consolidation of ASDA's distribution operations and the acquisition of the UK wing of discount chain Netto, the 330,000 sq ft site at Normanton has in recent months become one of the major cogs in the supply chain. The massive site is constantly evolving, as does its safety needs, but A-Safe has been on hand to improve and develop protection on site for its workers.

Jack Lawtey, Facilities Manager at Normanton, explained: "Busy warehouse operations like ASDA have a high volume of traffic as well as numerous pedestrian personnel on site at any one time. Due to the nature of the job, we have to keep the operation running smoothly and ensure that the pallets of products are transported from the racking to our



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Jack Lawtey, Facilities Manager
ASDA, Normanton

wagons in a limited time. Therefore sub-standard safety systems are not acceptable.

"A-Safe products are saving us thousands of pounds a year. The team at A-Safe and the nature of their barrier systems are perfect for our changing needs. The Normanton site has undergone a few changes recently that obviously required changes to our safety systems to quickly ensure a continued high level of safety protection with minimal disruption to the overall function of the site. A-Safe swiftly adapted to fit our needs."

A-Safe continues to work with Jack and his team as the development of the site continues.

"A-Safe allows us to get on with our roles and significantly reduces the risk of accidents to people or equipment," added Jack.



“My colleagues had not come across A-Safe before, and thought I had lost my marbles. However, once installed they could see that it does exactly what it says on the tin! A-Safe saves us valuable time and money in reduced maintenance and repair.”
Glen Smith, Facilities Manager
ASDA, Wigan



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ASDA's distribution centre in Wigan has introduced A-Safe's systems across the site, having seen the positive results achieved at other centres in the supply network. A-Safe initially installed traffic barriers on-site which immediately solved the problem of constantly having to maintain or replace the previous steel barriers and the damage caused to the flooring. 12 months on and A-Safe continue to work the team at Wigan as the site expands and evolves. The A-Safe model works as it can be adjusted, adapted and added to, along with the site development.

Glen Smith, Facilities Manager at Wigan said: "My colleagues had not come across A-Safe before, and thought I had lost my marbles. They didn't rate that a piece of plastic would last two minutes compared to the steel barriers we were using. "However, once installed they could see that it does exactly what

it says on the tin! It looks great, offers the same (if not better) protection from collisions than steel does and saves us valuable time and money in reduced maintenance and repair. The FLT's on site are doing their best to test the barriers to their limits – and so far so good!"

Sentiments echoed by Mark Wilkins, Facilities, Safety and Health Manager at ASDA's clothing distribution centre in Brackmills, Northampton. The 296,000 sq ft depot employs 550 people with 130 people on site at any one time. A-Safe has helped to better define pedestrian and vehicle routes to protect pedestrians moving around the busy warehouse and to also protect pallet racking from machinery and vehicles.

Mark said: "You cannot underestimate the role that A-Safe barriers play in the overall safety of the warehouse. It is also the most cost effective solution. Not only in initial outlay of material, but also in the installation and ongoing maintenance.

"One of the main reasons for choosing the A-Safe system was the fact that it is more resistant to scuffs and knocks than standard steel Armco or key clamp systems. An impact will not leave any dents or highly visible scratches on the barrier so are easier to clean and maintain. On top of this, it is definitely more aesthetically pleasing than steel barriers and easy and quick to install."

With over 5,000 accidents involving transport in the workplace and 70 fatalities reported each year, A-Safe is helping companies significantly reduce these statistics by installing the right products offering suitable protection for the right applications. The success that A-Safe has achieved has led to other ASDA depots replacing their existing systems with the new polymer-based ones.

A-Safe continue to work with the health and safety teams across the ASDA distribution network to adapt and evolve its current safety systems as the sites develop and expand. The ease of installation and the flexibility that A-Safe barrier systems offer, allow ASDA the confidence and peace of mind that its staff, equipment, vehicles and stock remain safe and protected.



For more information, contact the team at A-Safe on **01422 344402** or visit **www.asafe.com**
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