

Vehicle Lighting and Conspicuity

With shorter days and longer nights now upon us Recovery Operator puts the spotlight (no pun intended!) this month on the issues concerning Vehicle Lighting and Conspicuity

IS YOUR PRODUCT UP TO SCRATCH?

Vehicle recovery is undoubtedly an exceptionally dangerous profession. Everyday vehicle recovery operators put their personal safety at risk when attending roadside incidents. In many cases workers solely rely on the warning signals their vehicle provides in an effort to alert other road users of a potential danger.

In a time when corporate manslaughter is a great concern it is very important to be fully aware of regulations that apply to vehicle lighting. Unknown to the majority of recovery organisations, most (if not all) of their vehicle lighting equipment will be of a sub-standard quality and will not comply with regulations that are designed to protect all road users.

Vehicle lighting manufacturers and distributors have a legal requirement to fully test the equipment they supply. These tests generally analyse whether the light output is sufficient for vehicle use (brightness), whether the flash patterns can be damaging to the public domain (E.g. Epilepsy issues), and how the product could interfere with other equipment on the vehicle (radio signals).

Only a handful of manufacturers fully test their equipment to the appropriate standards. If a lightbar or beacon does not comply with E11 EMC (or equivalent) and ECE R65, fitting and using the product is illegal. When purchasing your next lightbar / beacon always ask for certification copies (or evidence) that refers to the product that you are purchasing. The VCA and VOSA have the authority to remove any non-conforming equipment from your vehicle. This will undoubtedly end in a very costly exercise.

Ignoring vehicle lighting regulations could be extremely damaging to an organisation and ultimately may result in your fleet being held accountable for any accidents that may occur.

CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER AND VEHICLE CONSPICUITY

Do rescue and recovery operators realise the impact of the Corporate Manslaughter Act on the conspicuity of their fleets?

24 hours per day, 365 days per year rescue and recovery vehicles are attending incidents up and down the busy roads of the UK. With all eyes currently focused on rising fuel prices, rescue and recovery operators may

be failing to see the importance of the conspicuity of the vehicles they are using for recovery. Since the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 was introduced in April 2008 things will have to change for rescue and recovery operators in terms of the safety of their vehicles including the conspicuity, because it is the fleet managers and procurement departments that will now be responsible if there is a fatality involving a rescue and recovery vehicle(s).

According to national law firm Lyons Davidson: "The use of reflective materials goes to the heart of health and safety, their very design is to afford protection to any individual coming into contact with them in a hazardous environment." Further highlighting what difference the new manslaughter act will have on vehicle livery including rescue and recovery vehicles Lyons Davidson comment: "It can accordingly be seen that during the procurement process, an organisation must give due regards to a number of issues connected with the selection and eventual usage of reflective materials. In the event of an accident where vehicle conspicuity is determined to be a factor, the organisation will have to produce to the investigating authority, whether that is the Police or HSE, an audit trail evidencing the process adopted for selection and purchase of those reflective materials."

Accidents increase when wet weather is upon us and this year's summer has seen many more incidents than rescue and recovery operators had bargained for. The first line response to a breakdown is inevitably the rescue and recovery vehicle, which will have to attend a recovery whatever the weather conditions. It is in these conditions; when visibility is poor that potentially life-threatening situations can occur, and should anything awful like this happen whilst a rescue and recovery vehicle is attending the scene, it is the view of Lyons Davidson that there is a risk of an enquiry into the reflective materials used.

Increased traffic on the roads means that more than ever there is a greater demand for rescue and recovery vehicles to be clearly visible at distance and therefore safe whilst they are out on the roads recovering vehicles in very hazardous, stationary situations. With the right livery, such as Reflexite's prismatic livery film, rescue and recovery vehicles can reduce the risk of accidents when their services are in use, as well as protecting members of the public who may also need secure assistance. As Lyons Davidson go on to say "An organisation can be guilty of an offence if a fatality occurs to an employee, member of the public or any individual to whom the organisation owes a duty of care where it can be demonstrated that there has been a breach of that duty."

Rescue and recovery operators have to consider many things when specifying which livery film to use on vehicles and the message is clear to rescue and recovery operators to make sure their fleets are kitted out with the latest, most technologically advanced livery film available. As well as conforming to the specifications it is also vital that the fleet manager feels confident that the livery is not only safe but also is easy to manage from an operations point of view and that there is at the very least a comprehensive warranty with the film.

For further information on Reflexite reflective materials please call Richard Coates on 07841 234098

EYE OPENER

Now here's a little eye opener - in the shape of an LED Traffic Hazard Chevron which can be (and has already been) used in a number of different scenarios to aid the visible presence of VRO's attending incidents.

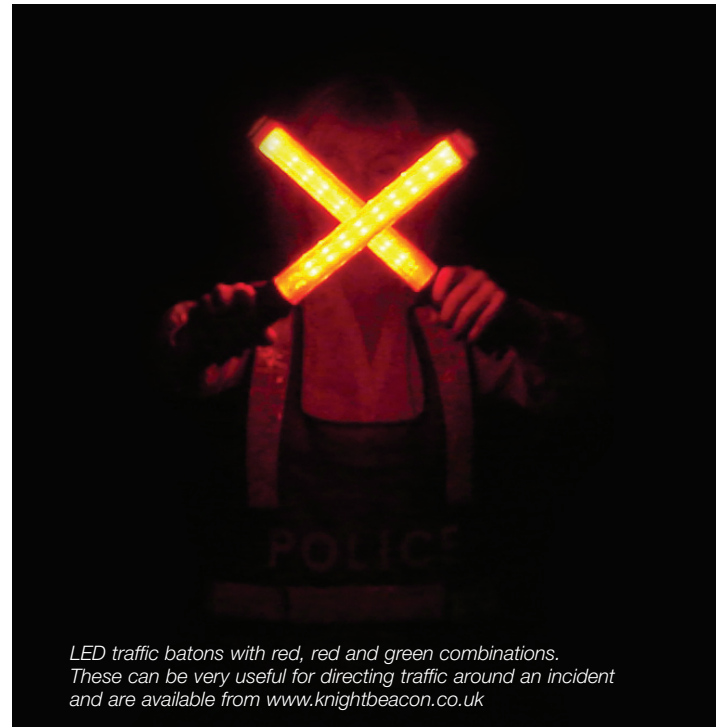
The "Chevron" weighing in at less than a kilo, measures 32 inches x 18 and can be "rolled up" for easy storage. It has already been trialed by a number of operators in the UK including Don Rose of AVRA Ltd. Don has used the magnetic mountings to attach to vehicles and the fixing eyelets to secure to trees to alert motorists who are approaching an incident, he has even utilised it between traffic cones.

"Traffic did slow down considerably, it's especially useful if chevrons are deployed around blind bends. The reflective chevrons were clearly visible from over 400 meters away" reported Don, adding "Overall - it's a very versatile piece of kit, a great safety device, idiot proof and fast deployment makes this a must have piece of kit and it will no doubt contribute to saving lives'.

Manufactured for the UK market, the Chevron is currently being used by several police forces in particular the Scottish Police Services Authority. Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue are currently trialing them as well but for the most part its coach and transport companies, highway maintenance contractors and individuals from the police who purchase them to supplement their own vehicles kit. However the potential benefits to VRO's are there to be seen as the Chevron is particularly suited to use in poorly lit areas, bends and corners or simply to provide advanced warning or directional instructions, the chevron is powered by just 3 AA batteries - with its own cheap power source it's amazing how bright and efficient this light is visible at up to 400 metres and will operate continually for 10 hours plus (subject to battery quality)

A number of AVRO Members will be trialing the "Chevron" over the next few weeks. Anyone who is interested in purchasing the Chevron can do so from Birmingham based Midland Systems Ltd for £32.99

with free postage if ordered before 31st December 2008 and with a money back guarantee if not totally satisfied (if the goods are returned in original condition within 7 days) For details log onto www.knightbeacon.co.uk or call 0121 357 0350



LED traffic batons with red, red and green combinations. These can be very useful for directing traffic around an incident and are available from www.knightbeacon.co.uk

FULL UK MANUFACTURE

EMERGENCY SERVICES EQUIPMENT

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- 5 YR WARRANTY & LOW LEADTIME
- LOW COST & AFFORDABLE OPTIONS
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- LED STOP/TAIL/INDICATOR

- LED WARNING LIGHT KITS
- SELF-CONTAINED LED HEADS
- LED DASH MOUNT LIGHT
- SELF-CONTAINED S/T/I OPTIONS
- SELF-CONTAINED TRAFFIC DIRECTOR

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 FAX: 01422 355001
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 WEBSITE: WWW.REDTRONIC.CO.UK

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National Policing Improvement Agency

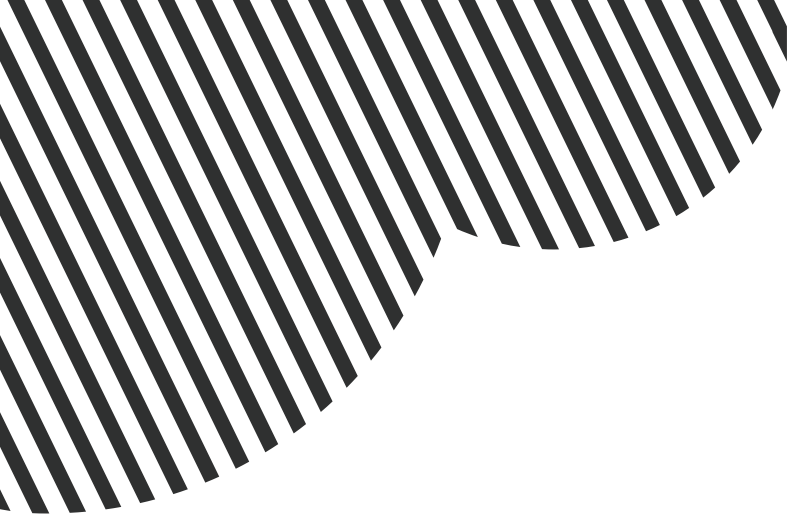
nqa ISO 9001 Registered

UKAS

E11

MEGA-FLASH

RANGE WITH ECE R65



REDTRONIC'S NEW DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE MEGA-FLASH™ RANGE

With technology increasing rapidly, Redtronic Ltd, a manufacturing company based in Halifax, West Yorkshire (UK) are too, moving with the times. Their rapid growth within the LED warning signal market is proving extremely effective for all users.

Their latest product innovations are the new MEGA-FLASH™ DASH. Designed for use within the vehicle dash or rear parcel shelf – either via a cigarette socket power or direct wire. This enables quality UK manufactured equipment at ultra low prices. The item is offered with multiple flash patterns, multicoloured options and a full 5 year warranty.

Another new product to evolve within the range is the brand new MEGA-FLASH™ TRAFFIC DIRECTOR. This can either be purchased as a stand-alone unit or be inbuilt or under-slung within the MEGA-FLASH™ lightbar.

All products are fully designed and manufactured in the UK. Redtronic Ltd has taken lengthy steps to certify their products to the roadside regulations they are required to meet by law. They all meet and exceed strict EMC and ECE R65 requirements. If you need a product that you can rely upon, in the harshest of environments, count on REDTRONIC to provide your next visual warning aid.

Please visit www.redtronic.co.uk for more information.

REFLEXITE'S LIVERY FILM INCREASES PRESENCE IN RESCUE AND RECOVERY SECTOR

Increased traffic on the roads means that more than ever there is a greater demand for rescue and recovery vehicles to be visible and therefore safe when they are out on the roads recovering vehicles in very hazardous, stationary situations, whilst other vehicles are traveling at high speeds. With the right reflective livery, rescue and recovery vehicles are reducing the risk of accidents when their services are in use, as well as protecting members of the public who may also need assistance when vehicles are recovered.

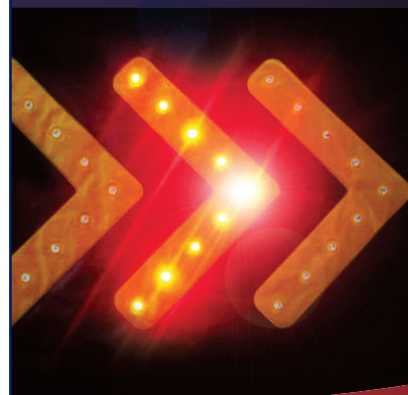
Reflexite continues to see an increased presence in the rescue and recovery sector providing livery film for fleets. The ease of application of Reflexite's livery film is appealing to fleet managers as it fits much better around corners and curves than anything else available on the market. Further the no edge sealing feature of the film keeps fleets looking smarter and adds to the visibility aspect of the livery making the vehicles much safer. Visit www.reflexite.co.uk for more information.



BE SAFE BE SEEN ! The Knight Beacon LED

SAFETY CHEVRON

- Battery powered
- Robust, folds & lightweight
- Deploy in seconds
- 36 amber LEDs
- Attach to any vehicle/obstacle to provide bright directional hazard warning indicator
- Provides enhanced visibility in poorly lit areas & advanced warning to oncoming motorists at bends and corners. Visible at 400m for up to 10hrs Size 32" x 18" (folds to just 5" x 8")



Just £32.99 with free postage if ordered before 31st December 2008 and with a money back guarantee if not totally satisfied

To order visit www.knightbeacon.co.uk or send cheque or postal orders for £32.99 to Midland Systems Limited, Charmwood House, Fairfield Ave, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 6AG remembering to include your name and address. For further information call 0121 357 0350.

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- 12 led modules
- 2 side work lights
- 2 front work lights or illuminated sign
- plus either rear traffic director or led brake and indicator lights with either rear illuminated sign or rear work lights

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vehicle warning systems





Photo: Courtesy of CGM Rescue Services

Being seen is being Safe

Be seen and safe when rescuing others.
The Reflexite® range of reflective livery films is the solution.



- Requires no edge sealing
- Flexible to cut and conforms to curvatures
- High Brightness and durability
- Easy to cut
- Quick turnaround on accident damage

Experience the Reflexite® Difference

For more information contact:

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