

ACO TECHNOLOGIES TRANSFORMS TEAM ATTITUDES WITH SAFETY CLOUD

From highways to runways to railways, vital parts of the country's infrastructure depend on ACO Technologies' sustainable surface water management systems, which put polymer concrete, iron, steel and plastic to work for the safety of car, air and rail passengers around the world. They wanted the same innovative approach for the health and safety of their employees.

A simple, streamlined solution

ACO were operating a paper based system managed primarily by a health and safety officer. The aim was to disseminate management of health and safety across the business making it part of everyone's day to day activities and being auditable.

In April 2015, ACO partnered with Southalls to implement Safety Cloud and commence a strategy of safety enhancement. Working with a dedicated consultant with experience in health and safety enforcement, ACO engineered a proactive, sustainable plan to tackle their specific H&S objectives. This included:

- **Empowering staff**

Every ACO employee was equipped with a Safety Cloud log in and trained to take ownership of their individual health and safety responsibilities – from viewing policies to carrying out online training, health surveillance, risk assessments, audits and equipment checks.

- **Ensuring ISO18001 compliance**

By capturing all data online, ACO could demonstrate to ISO auditors how they meet and exceed prescribed standards, including logging and responding to accidents and near misses, and creating improvement actions to ensure continued progress.

- **Making it work for their business**

Dealing with high-risk materials and equipment, ACO wanted more than off-the-peg procedures. So the Southalls experts provided a fully documented audit, bespoke risk assessments and tailored policy templates.

- **Maintaining excellence**

Southalls' support included four consultant visits each year to ACO's Shefford and Bedford sites, plus pragmatic, practical advice over phone or email whenever it's needed.



COMPLIANCE THROUGH CULTURE CHANGE



ACO's employees quickly embraced Safety Cloud's flexibility, allowing managers to perform on-site audits via phone or tablet and allowed staff to complete training modules from anywhere with a web connection. Over 2016-2017, the culture change evolved, delivering far-reaching benefits:

- **Positive thinking**
Employees, who already had a good attitude to health and safety, have embraced the tool. Safety Cloud has made it easier to report incidents or near misses. Management has better visibility of actions that need completing and reporting has become much easier.
- **Current and compliant**
With risk assessments trained to all relevant staff and personal protective equipment (PPE) in place, safe working practices, staff training and site checks are maintained on a day-to-day basis. Safety Cloud's automated email reminders also help the team stay on target with H&S tasks.
- **Time and cost savings**
With Southalls' hands-on, expert guidance, safety and innovation are core parts of ACO's daily operations. Reduced admin, improved compliance and inventive ideas such as PPE vending machines have cut waste and **realised cost savings of around 20%**.

"By adopting Safety Cloud, ACO has enhanced management and control of health and safety compliance across the business. The most fundamental part of improving safety has been our relationship with our consultant, who goes out of his way to ensure we are confident and compliant, educating through regular audits, working with our staff, providing practical feedback and driving continuous improvement. Since implementing Safety Cloud, awareness of health and safety matters has spread within the business, with many more people engaged in ensuring we keep our staff and visitors safe."

Peter Ruddy, Operations Manager,
ACO Water Management.



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consultation call or
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