



Hard PPE Decontamination Facility Installed

As part of the further extension and expansion of our managed services facilities, we have recently designed and installed a process for washing and decontaminating hard PPE items such as SCBA supporting frames, helmets, visors and boots.

Whilst we have been able to offer a special washing and decontamination service for fire coats, trousers and gloves for some years, we have seen an increase in requests for a facility to remove blood borne pathogens and asbestos from hard items which cannot be put through a washing machine, a process which forms part of the decontamination programme for soft PPE items.

Our technical team, working with our in-house engineers, has now designed and built a special facility which allows items to be washed in an entirely enclosed chamber into which bagged contaminated items, such as firefighter boots and helmets, which may have come into contact with blood borne pathogens or asbestos, can be opened and thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated.

Linked to the existing washing facilities in our managed services area, the waste water will be disposed of through the special waste water filtration system under the Trade Effluent Consent granted by the local water authority which was first installed several years ago when the waste management of decontaminated liquids became an integral part of Bristol's comprehensive managed care facility.

Edward Shepherd, our Service Operations Director, who managed the team which designed and built the new facility, made the case for our investment in the project as he became aware of the increasing demand from a growing number of fire & rescue services who now prefer to source all their head-to-toe PPE from one supplier. This facility now provides them with assurance of full operational compatibility. Additionally, with an increasing number of our PPE users looking to reduce their long term PPE costs by adopting a managed care service, this has meant that whilst still relatively small, there are more incidences of contaminated hard PPE being returned to our managed services centres needing to be cleansed.

Is this a service which might be of value to your organisation? If so, I would be pleased to hear from you so that I could explore the options with you.

Regards

Roger Startin
Bristol Uniforms