SafeGroup

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Case Study

Touchpoint Shield™ Atomic Energy

Client	UK Atomic Energy Authority
Project	Touchpoint Shield™ installation
Location	Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Touchpoint Shield™ from SafeGroup

Background

The UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) is the UK's leading fusion energy research organisation. It operates the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (CCFE) near Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

CCFE is a global leader in fusion energy research. It is looking for ways to harness the power of the stars, including our Sun, to provide safe, sustainable, low-carbon energy.

The UKAEA wanted to optimise long-term hygiene protection. Of immediate concern was the need to protect hundreds of scientists, engineers, and support staff against COVID-19.

It commissioned SafeGroup to install its Touchpoint Shield™ ultra-tough and long-lasting antimicrobial coating in all shower, toilet and washroom areas as a key element of its hygiene strategy.

Pictured below: One of the basin taps on the CCFE site after being coated with Touchpoint Shield™

Client comments

"Following the results of controlled testing over several locations, the results were conclusive as to the coating's effectiveness. It is our intention to continue to add this process to our new builds and building refurbishment projects. The level of service from SafeGroup has been efficient, collaborative and totally professional."

Keith Musgrave | Head of Buildings and Facilities Management, UKAEA

The Challenge

The UKAEA was especially keen to optimise its hygiene protection because of the highly collaborative nature of its research, with scientists regularly visiting from across around the world.

Being one of the world's leading science research centres, it was no surprise to SafeGroup that the UKAEA wanted proof that Touchpoint Shield™ would be effective.

Therefore, SafeGroup worked with its facilities management team to carry out a series of pilot tests at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The trials were successful.

Laboratory analysis of swabs samples showed areas coated with Touchpoint Shield™ showed very little microorganism contamination. While untreated areas showed rapid recolonisation.

These results confirmed results achieved in previous trials across different sectors, including banking, office and theatre. Laboratory studies also showed Touchpoint Shield™ is over 9.99+% effective against Sars-Cov-2, the COVID-19 virus, the flu virus, norovirus (the winter vomiting bug) and harmful bacteria.

Solution and implementation

The clear evidence of Touchpoint Shield™'s effectiveness prompted the UKAEA to commission SafeGroup to install Touchpoint Shield™ in all shower, toilet and washroom facilities across the 200-acre CCFE site.

Working closely with the UKAEA's facilities team, SafeGoup put together an installation programme to coat hundreds of different surfaces without inconveniencing the CCFE's employees or disrupting their work.

Items coated included shower controls, shower handles, wash basin taps, toilet furniture, door handles and door push plates. All the work was carried out by trained SafeGroup technicians so all target surfaces were coated to a high standard.

Outcomes

- SafeGroup installed Touchpoint Shield™ in key hygiene facilities across the 200-acre site on time, safely and to a high standard.
- Touchpoint Shield™ immediately began destroying harmful microorganisms on its surfaces, reducing pathogen transmission risks.
- The UKAEA could demonstrate enhanced measures were being taken to protect its teams, enhancing wellbeing.
- Touchpoint Shield's ultra-smooth surface made coated objects easier and faster to clean.
- With the coating in place, cleaning of high frequency touchpoints could be held at pre-pandemic levels, controlling cleaning budgets

Touchpoint Shield™ being installed at the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy

> **"Touchpoint Shield provides long-lasting anti-microbial protection on all surfaces while also making them so much easier to keep clean. Treated surfaces also look excellent."**
>
> **Adam Clark** | Building and Refurbishment Manager, UKAEA

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