

The Company

Safeglass (Europe) Limited was formed in 1997 to commercialise the award winning material, Safeglass®.

Safeglass® is used as the industry standard throughout the rail and bus industry for break glass hammer boxes, door egress, fire extinguishers and many other safety products. Safeglass is also used in hospitals for fire alarms and oxygen shut off valves.

It was very quickly recognised that Safeglass could also be used for a number of other products. For example, breaking strength can be controlled making it suitable for one-use 'snap' devices. Its durability makes it suitable for glassware and bottles. Development in these areas is currently being undertaken.

Company History

1991

Real glass is used on hammer boxes on trains - passengers have to break this to reach the hammer. This exposes them to a high risk of injury. There must be a better way!

1995

Investment is made in some Research & Development to make the material mass produceable.

1996

Safeglass (Europe) Limited is established to commercialise the idea.

June 1997

Initial market research and test marketing. Product development ongoing.

December 1997

Funding for development is put in place.

July 1998

Development is completed and first orders fulfilled.

August 1998

A Marketing and Sales strategy are developed.

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September 1998

The Safeglass® Trademark is approved.

October 1998

Safeglass Safeglass® is the national winner of John Logie Baird Award for Innovation.

April 1999

Safeglass® is awarded the prestigious Millennium Product status by the Design Council.

May 1999

Safeglass® is showcased for the first time at an exhibition – Expo 99.

November 1999

Research into feasibility of producing a bottle for the beer industry using Safeglass®.

December 1999

Safeglass® is established as the industry standard for break-glass in the rail sector.

January 2000

Safeglass® is presented to Association of Train Operating Companies.

May 2000

Project plan and costings devised for the development of Safeglass® beer bottles.

June 2000

Safeglass® is featured on the TV programme “I wish I’d thought of that” on Channel 4.

September 2000

Beer Bottle Project begins.

February 2001

Ministry of Transport approves Safeglass® for use on buses.

May 2001

Safeglass Managing Director presents the Bottle Development Project at New Plastics Conference in Brussels.

October 2001

The first prototype bottle is blown into a balloon shape.

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March 2002

Safeglass continues to expand as demand for Safeglass® increases.

July 2002

Experimentation of different grades of Safeglass® material to assess suitability for bottle production. Investment in tooling for bottle production ready for production trial.

December 2002

First prototype pre-forms are made.

February 2003

First bottles blown using Safeglass® Preforms.

March 2003

The company continues to grow.

June 2003

Larger workshop premises are leased.

August 2003

Investment in new machinery is made.

March 2004

Investment made last year enables the company to continue growing.

April 2005

Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Innovation Category awarded to the company.

May 2005

Safeglass moves to bigger premises to cope with increased demand and a larger workforce.

April 2006

Feasibility Study into technical possibility of using Safeglass for a new range of safe glassware for the Pub Industry.

August 2006

Market Research Project into Glassware undertaken. Results show the need for a new product.

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January 2007

New website launched with the aim of reaching a wider, international audience.

March 2007

New research project to develop new, more fire resistant grades of Safeglass in order to reach more markets.

July 2007

New website pays off with first large order from overseas customer.

April 2008

Research project completed – Safeglass has more grades of material suitable for more customers.

July 2008

Investment in a compounding machine to enable new grades of material to be produced, allow for recycling, improve control of process and make further research cheaper.

March 2009

New compounding machine fully installed. Safeglass now recycles 80% waste material.

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