

Frangible Safety Posts

targets growth in safety sign supports



Frangible Safety Posts (FSP) hopes to grow the market for its high safety sign supports. Although originally developed by 3M, FSP has further improved and expanded the range of products available.

FSP's commercial director Craig Pyser said that the firm now offers the posts in an array of colours and finishes and lengths of 3.5-9m, while there are plans to introduce new sizes also. He added: "We're developing 168mm and 219mm diameter posts and these will be ready on the market in the next few months."

The material is pultruded during manufacture and FSP's managing director Niall Mackay explained, "It keeps the fibres under tension."

The novel manufacturing process and composite materials used mean that the posts offer the NE3 rating, what is thought to be the lowest level of resistance to impact of any products on the market.

Because of the low impact rating two posts can be used just 750mm apart, compared with a 1.5m requirement for conventional posts.

Mackay said, "We use a combination of materials and direction of the fibres and we balance off the bending moment so it can hold a sign and meet 25 year wind events. This ensures that it collapses in a predictable manner in the event of an impact by an errant vehicle."

When these posts are struck by a vehicle, their light weight of 4.2 kilos reduces the risk of further injury or damage, unlike conventional steel posts. The current 140mm diameter FSP posts can use standard fittings, clips and installation techniques. However, because they are considerably lighter than conventional steel posts the frangible items are easier and cheaper to transport and install and also reduce the risk of injury during handling.

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