



## **sara LBS fast tracks loading bay fit-outs as Co-op expands in North Scotland**

**sara LBS has supplied all the loading bay equipment for the new £6million Dalcross Distribution Centre at Inverness Airport Business Park (IABP). The centre is part of a sustained process of expansion and renewal for the Co-op's convenience retail network throughout Northern Scotland.**

Nationally the Co-op is implementing a £200m programme of development that has seen it open about 400 new stores in the last four years, as well as refurbishing and expanding existing sites. Its North of Scotland region is a prominent part of this plan, with about 20 shops a year being opened round the villages of the Highland and Islands and the larger towns and cities in the East, such as Aberdeen, Inverness, Perth and Dundee.

To ensure the region is efficiently serviced, the Co-op has just built a state of the art distribution centre at Inverness Airport Business Park, which serves as a hub for both air freight and road transport. This currently has eight loading bays with potential for more to be added as the retail network grows.

Each bay is designed to accommodate double decker vehicles, which will save 1,800 road miles per day compared to the use of single deckers; helping to reduce carbon dioxide and other emissions. They also help contain shipping costs, helping keep prices to consumers low and the Co-op competitive. The loading bays will also facilitate night time working, withstand winter weather and maintain hygiene and biosecurity to the high standards required for safe food handling.

Louise Nurse, Sales and Marketing Manager for sara LBS, says: "I believe sara LBS was awarded the loading bay contract because of our ability to provide a full package of equipment, and to guarantee efficiency and high quality in the relatively remote location. The Inverness construction schedule was tight, so our commitment to being flexible and fitting in with timetable changes was critical to the overall project success.

"We have a portfolio of successful projects around Scotland under our belt, which the Dalcross Distribution Centre adds to."

The bays are all identical, with each having an insulated main loading door, which helps maintain thermal stability so that the food being handled is kept at optimum temperature for maximum freshness. Outside the bays are fitted with inflatable seals that minimise heat exchange with the interior and also stop birds from flying into the bay. Each bay is also fitted with traffic lights, wheel guides and buffers which aid safe and efficient vehicle movements. Internally each bay has a dock leveller so that both vehicles decks can be accessed easily, while state of the art bay lighting ensures a good working environment.

sara LBS also supplied some down to ground doors and personnel doors for use elsewhere on the site.

The distribution centre is built to a bespoke design and is future-proofed in that it can easily be extended as operations increase. The Co-op is expected to continue its commitment to serving communities in the North of Scotland, including those in remote highland villages and on islands just as much as those in easily accessible larger towns. In fact, it will open 40 new or redeveloped stores around Scotland in 2019, with more to follow in subsequent years.

## Photo Captions:-

**Pic 1:-** The Co-op has just built a state of the art distribution centre at Inverness Airport Business Park, which serves as a hub for both air freight and road transport.

**Pic 2:-** Internally each bay has a sara dock leveller so that both vehicles decks can be accessed easily, while state of the art bay lighting ensures a good working environment.

**Pic 3:-** Outside the bays are fitted with sara inflatable seals that minimise heat exchange with the interior and also stop birds from flying into the bay.

**Pic 4:-** Each bay is also fitted with traffic lights, wheel guides and buffers which aid safe and efficient vehicle movements.

## About sara LBS

sara Loading Bay Specialists supplies, installs and maintains loading bay systems, high speed doors and industrial doors. It has provided high quality product solutions and outstanding customer service since it was founded 30 years ago and this remains its sole focus.

## Product Solutions

sara LBS's range of high quality products includes its complete loading bay packages (including scissor lifts, ramps and dock levellers), 'Sprint' range of rapid roll, high speed doors for internal and external use, insulated sectional overhead doors and roller shutter doors. It has extensive sector expertise and provides total packages that are tailored to meet all its customer's needs. Specialist sectors include food and beverage, pharmaceutical, automotive, manufacturing, logistics and distribution.

## Maintenance & Repair

Sara LBS provides nationwide 24/7 service cover and rapid response times for all loading bay systems, dock shelters, high speed doors and industrial doors using its specialist engineers based across the country. It works with end users to extend the safe working lifetime of their doors and equipment by providing both preventative maintenance packages and standard and emergency repairs.



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