



# Machine safety at Strukton Rail

## A success story of systems and people

Strukton Rail - part of the Strukton Group - offers an extensive service package for rail infrastructure, rail vehicles and mobility systems. Belgian clients include Infrabel, De Lijn, TEC and MIVB, while the company supports the design, construction, maintenance and operation of advanced rail solutions in many other countries. Strukton Rail turned to Vinçotte in 2015 to help guarantee the safety and quality of its impressive machinery while simultaneously continuing to build on its broad-based culture of safety.

Strukton Rail offers niche services and therefore relies on a particularly extensive amount of machinery. "Today, we rely on 3,000 specialised machines for railway construction," confirms Patrick Vanhie, Managing Director of Strukton Rail. "We use this machinery internationally, so meticulous project management and well-streamlined logistics are essential for us. Machine safety is also a big challenge. Maintaining an oversight of the different risk analyses, commissioning reports and safety instructions is no easy feat."

### Structured machine safety

To address that problem, Strukton Rail called on Vinçotte. "We were looking for an experienced partner who could guide

us in structuring our approach to machine safety," says Safety & Quality Engineer, Inge Dujardyn. "Together with Vinçotte, we developed a plan to collect, organise, and standardise all available information. For example, we wanted to identify the specific risks for each machine, update the commissioning reports, and ensure all our machines were equipped with clear safety instruction cards for our employees."

To launch the project, Vinçotte first provided internal training. "This not only gave us an insight into the technical aspects, it also made us look at the importance of machine safety in a new way and be conscious of it," says Inge.

**"We could always rely on their extensive theoretical knowledge and broad practical experience. The attention that Vinçotte paid to both our systems and our employees has given us the best possible start to achieving a sustainable safety culture."**

*Patrick Vanhie, Managing Director  
Strukton Rail*



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## Strukton Rail - Facts & figures:

- Activity: Rail infrastructure, railway vehicles and mobility systems
- Expertise: Train and tram systems, track laying, signalling, overhead lines, geomatics engineering
- Branches: the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Sweden and France. Also active in other countries, including Denmark, Switzerland, Great Britain and Australia
- Number of employees: approx. 3,500
- Turnover in 2015: EUR 765 million



Vinçotte showed a remarkable flexibility in meeting the requirements. The fact that the specific team of experts were in close proximity and added a personal approach provided us with a lot of added value. We could always rely on their extensive theoretical knowledge and broad practical experience. The attention that Vinçotte paid to both our systems and our employees has given us the best possible start to achieving a sustainable safety culture."

## Useful checklists

Philip Pierloz, Lead Safety Engineer at Vinçotte, explains the project progression: "Apart from checking the CE markings, we had to identify the risks associated with each type of machine. Then the commissioning reports and safety instruction cards could be tackled based on this information."

"First, we divided the machines into 256 categories," explains Philip. "Then, we conducted a risk analysis for each category and generated a handy checklist with safety items on it. This now allows Strukton Rail to check the various machines within that category. Yet, we often had to generate multiple checklists for the same category. For example, if a man basket bench is mounted to a particular machine, it must comply with the safety requirements of an elevating platform. In the meantime, the checklists are almost ready and all 3,000 machines should be inspected by the end of 2016."

## Sustainable culture change

In addition to the administrative work, the safety habits of site employees needed to be addressed. "Everyone took an exam concerning lifting and handling equipment," said Site Leader, Jan Benoit. "We also introduced some new procedures. Uninspected work equipment is now placed in a specific container or identified by means of a red ribbon. Safety is in the details. It's great to see how this is now starting to become the norm for all employees. Working safely is no longer a task; it's become a habit. That sustainable, cultural change is just as important to the success of this project."

## Flexible and personal cooperation

Managing Director, Patrick Vanhie, is very happy with the cooperation with Vinçotte: "Strukton Rail usually operates in unusual circumstances. We often work at night and under very tight deadlines.

## The benefits of machine safety

Strukton Rail is reaping the benefits of the new approach. And this goes beyond increased safety:

- Reduced risk of production outages and damage to reputation,
- Efficiency gains thanks to standardised safety instructions,
- Cost savings through reduced material damage.

## Your contact person:

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## About Vinçotte

With our inspection, testing, certification and training services, we offer you all the solutions you need to guarantee safety, quality and sustainability to you and your environment and to make sure that your investments yield. Our 2500 reputable experts work in accordance with best practice and are determined to find the best solution for you, whatever the circumstances. Rest assured. Vinçotte takes care of it.



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