



LOUIS FRANCE

Rubber, Safety, Hygiene & Industrial supplies

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About Louis France

September 1939 may not have been the ideal time to set up in business, with war clouds hanging over Europe but Louis France overcame that hurdle and the company is looking forward in 2009 to celebrating 70 years in business.

The company's story begins when Louis France, then a director of rubber suppliers E Hallowell Carter decided to go it alone. He took with him a young warehouseman, Jack Shaw, and they established a company in Upperhead Mills near to Huddersfield Town centre, Jack was later to become a director of the company. When he decided to set up his own company, took the main agency for Rainbow Belting, manufactured by the Dominion Rubber Company of Canada and used for driving machinery in the dyehouses of local textile mills.

But in the dark days of war the company also filled an essential need, supplying steel helmets and firefighting equipment to the textile trade. The business began to grow and Louis France took on another warehouseman Joe Taylor.

Sadly in 1953 Louis France died aged 59 and Mr Taylor and Mr Shaw were given the option to buy the company. They managed to purchase the company but it was a difficult time having to pay for it over a period of years with the profits.

The company went from strength to strength supplying both the textile and engineering trades.

In 1970 Mr Taylor's son Graham joined the company, straight from school and like his father, started in the warehouse sweeping up and making tea at just £7 per week.

He worked in the warehouse for three years before going out selling with the company's salesman Fred Schofield.

After nearly a year of learning the business, Graham was given an area of his own and on Fred's retirement in 1982, Graham took charge of the company's entire sales operation.

Even during the recession in the 1970s Louis France continued to fare well, having to go on short time for just one week. The Health and Safety Act had just been introduced and there was a big market for protective clothing and personal safety equipment. It was a natural progression to get into that sort of market.

With the decline in the textile business and most of the manufacturing business going abroad, the company has had to diversify and has now a product range that goes right from the basic janitorial equipment to high tech speciality products. The market is very competitive, but what gives Louis France the edge over the competition is the personal service given and the fact that only high-quality goods are supplied.

In March 2017 Louis France was purchased by RSH Group. The takeover by RSH Group adds a number of new lines to the range and with Head office in Sheffield and offices in Sunderland additional stock levels will help to maintain high service levels within the group.



CONDITIONS OF SALE

Goods are not tested or sold as fit for any particular purpose and any term warranty or conditions express implied or statutory to the contrary is excluded in no circumstances whatsoever shall the seller's liability (in contract, tort or otherwise) to the buyer arising under out or in connection with this contract or goods supplied hereunder exceed the invoice price of the particular piece(s) concerned. The seller will be under no liability for loss, damage or delay howsoever arising caused by circumstances outside his control.

The property in the goods shall not pass to the buyer until the buyer has paid to the seller the whole price thereof if notwithstanding that the property in the goods has not passed to the buyer. The buyer shall sell the goods in such manner as to pass to the third party a valid title to the goods. The buyer shall hold the proceeds of such on trust for the seller. The buyer agrees that prior to the payment of the whole price of the goods the seller may at any time enter upon the buyers premises and remove the goods there from and that the prior to such payment the buyer shall keep for the purpose of any such sub-sale. Notwithstanding that property in the goods shall not pass to the buyer save as the goods separate and identifiable for this purpose. Nothing herein shall constitute the buyer the agent of the seller provided above. The goods shall be at risk of the buyer; from after the expiration of the rent-free period referred to below. Whichever is the earlier. Goods will be stored rent free for fourteen days from the date of this contract or the date of collection (if any is agreed upon) or the date when the goods are available for collection. Whichever is the later. After which the buyer shall pay rent at the rate charges by public dock authorities in the area. Any delay caused by unreasonable act or by default of either party or rail or road transport or craft furnished by other to be for the account of the party causing the delay.

If the buyer shall fail to make due payment of all monies due by the buyer to the seller on whatever account then until all such monies have been paid the seller shall be entitled to withhold delivery of the goods or any part thereof and during such time the goods shall be deemed to be not available for collection. If the buyer does or suffers to be done anything which might prejudice his ability to pay the full price he shall be deemed to have repudiated this contract and the seller may without prejudice to his other rights accept such repudiation without notice and termination thereof. The buyer shall take delivery or collect the goods within the time limit provided for under this contract: in the event that he fails to do so within the time limit the seller shall be entitled to threat such failure as a repudiation of the contract and may without prejudice to his other rights accept such repudiation without notice as termination thereof.

Goods cannot be accepted without prior agreement. Any returns will be subject to a charge of 20%. Notice of any claims arising out of or in connection with this contract must be given in writing to the seller within 7 working days from the date when the goods are collected or delivered. Failing which all claims shall be deemed to be waived and absolutely barred. In any event the seller shall be under no liability for shortage or damage unless within 3 days of delivery the buyer gives written notice of claim otherwise than consignment note or delivery document to the carrier and to the seller.

All sales to arrive shall be subject to shipment and safe arrival any variation in the total of the war risk insurance rate or of any charge, tax, levy, duty or impost on the goods shall be for the buyers account. Instructions for the delivery to be given in time to enable them to be carried out upon arrival in absence of such instruction or if ordered by the buyer to rail or road transport or to craft and the buyer fails to provide same when the goods are available the seller may take such steps as he may in his absolute direction consider to be necessary to clear the goods and may recover from the buyer all expenses thereby incurred.

If any contact(s) made by the seller to procure the goods provides for variation of price(s) or such the cancellation of such contract(s) in the event of alteration in rate(s) of exchange and if by virtue of such provision either the price of any of the goods to be paid by the seller or the sterling equivalent thereof is varied or the contract(s) is cancelled then the price(s) of such goods under this contract shall be varied by the same amount or the seller at his option shall have the right to cancel this contract by notifying the buyer in respect of any goods not delivered to the buyer at that date. Any variation in the cost to the seller of effecting delivery of the goods to the buyer or in charges directly or indirectly affecting the goods which occurs after the contract date and prior to delivery of goods to the buyer account save that if any contract made by the seller to procure the goods provides for cancellation of such contract in the event of a refusal by the seller to agree any variation of the rate of freight and if by virtue of any such provision such contract is cancelled then the seller shall be entitled to recover from the buyer interest or any outstanding balance at the rate of 4% above the clearing banks minimum lending rate for the time being in force for the period from such date until the payment date.

Where these terms and conditions in any way conflict with any terms on which the buyer has purported to purchase the goods then the provisions of any such terms on which the buyer shall be deemed to be ineffective to the extent that they are inconsistent herewith.

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