Rail Services

Creating tomorrow’s railways
Colas Rail is a part of the Colas Group, a global leader in infrastructure construction and maintenance, which in turn is part of the French multi-national Bouygues. This heritage gives the company a solid foundation based on a very high level of expertise in rail operations, logistics and technology.

We are a multi-disciplined railway engineering company. Since January 2007 we have been operating freight trains both in the UK and in France. Our current focus is on the transport of bulk products, aggregates and raw materials to end-users. We are providing these rail services to an expanding customer base.

Colas Rail is a company focused on quality of service and detail. We believe in working in partnership with our clients and customers, and offering value for money in everything we do. We have a flexible and collaborative approach and can adapt to meet the changing needs of our clients.

A new approach

- Focused on detail
- Value for money
- Reliable
- Supported by parent company
- Well established railway operator:
  - Over 50 trains per day
  - Over 150 train drivers with nationwide route knowledge
- Multi-skilled workforce with a will-do and can-do approach
- A green solution for transportation
- Bespoke & personal services
- Nationwide coverage

Supplier of RRVs to Network Rail and project sites
Our excellent working relationship with Network Rail ensures a seamless operation and any contract we take on is always be given our full attention.

Colas Rail is a national freight operator. It offers a full range of services and is supported by a 24 hour control centre based at Rugby. The company’s head office is based in the heart of London with depots at:

- Wimbledon
- Rugby
- Crewe
- Bristol
- Manchester
- Plymouth

Colas Rail extends the reputation of safe, secure and reliable service to its expanding freight market by providing:

- Bulk Freight
- Intermodal freight
- General freight
- Specialist freight
- Asset hire

Colas Rail provides fast and efficient services that are flexible, reliable and cost effective for the client.

Colas Rail has a dedicated freight team who work together to provide a bespoke service for all their clients.

We would like to thank everyone involved for their high level of professionalism and commitment.

We are looking forward to developing this business and making it successful.
Colas Rail is able to provide rail freight haulage for all market sectors throughout the UK.

Colas Rail is a customer focused organisation which responds to its clients needs and aspirations. The management team of Colas Rail has extensive freight experience and a detailed knowledge of the freight market. New and potential market opportunities are always being considered and reviewed by the team and innovative practices explored.

We are one of five UK based rail operators with extensive rail freight contracts in France. We have widespread route knowledge, with drivers based throughout the UK, supported by train planners and operation support teams, with a 24/7 Operations Control based in Rugby. Reserve drivers are also available when needed with the necessary route knowledge required for this route/flow. In addition to this, diversionary routes are also learnt to ensure a smooth passage, regardless of any unforeseen circumstances.
The service provided by Colas Rail is significantly better than our last rail freight provider.

Gavin Adkins, Kronospan
Our Fleet

Colas Rail RRVs

The Rail Services Division has owned and operated RRVs in excess of ten years and is Link-up accredited to supply RRV plant with or without operators to undertake work on Network Rail managed infrastructure.

The Colas Rail Mecalac RRV’s are compliant with W6 gauge, the standard rail gauge for the rail infrastructure. The vehicles are both taxed and insured to travel on the public highway. The vehicles also carry insurance to work on Network Rail infrastructure.

The RRV plant has the Colas Rail company name and logo clearly marked on each vehicle. All safety signage for the safe operation of the plant is checked on a regular basis to ensure operators and persons on site are aware of pertinent safety control measures.

The vehicles and attachments are operated under the Colas Rail licence for plant operating within possessions on Network Rail managed infrastructure. The plant can also operate on other railway administrations where the client specifies the approval process for that particular operation, for example LUL, Docklands etc.

All Colas Rail RRVs operate to applicable Railway Group Standards, M&EE Codes of Practice and internal procedures and risk assessments.
Five Mecalac 360° RRV excavator/cranes (fitted with MEWPs) (Type 9B vehicles). These excavator/cranes can be used on Network Rail infrastructure or greenfield sites to undertake project work.

The following attachments can be used with these machines:

- Offset boom (both left and right for offset digging).
- Tool quick hitch system (for quick change of tools and buckets).
- Excavator duties.
- Loading shovel.

- Good lifting capability when used with the lifting hook.
- Forklift blades available.
- Tool holder.
- Flailing duties.
The Plasser & Theurer RM 90-NR has a wide range of features including a self-propelled transit speed of 60 mph, an excavation chain enabling single line working under many site conditions, a 3-deck screening unit, a modern machine control system and finally the insertion of new ballast during the cleaning process. Re-ballasting by the RM 90-NR ensures a stable and accurate track position even after ballast cleaning operations.

An additional advantage of the RM 90-NR is the design of the transfer conveyor belts at the front end of the machine. Their design enables spoil to be loaded onto MFS wagons propelled by the ballast cleaner or via the swivel type conveyor belt onto conventional box type wagons standing on the adjacent track.

The RM 90-NR can work with either the on board fully automatic computer system or by using the external input laser system. This machine can operate on cants of up to 200mm.
Our Fleet

Pems Lems

The PEM-LEM S&C Switch Handling System can be used to remove, install and transport S&C installations on high-speed railway.

The system comprises two elements:-

1. Telescopic Switch Handling Machine “PEM”. The PEM machines provide the lifting and slewing function, and are the units that lift and walk the S&C installations when removing or installing.

2. Motorised Lifting Transportation Trolley “LEM”. The LEM trolleys can be placed under the lifted S&C installation, and are used to transport it along the railway. The trolleys are all self-powered and unlike earlier S&C handling systems, do not require an external traction source.

Colas Rail runs a fleet of 16 PEMs and 16 LEMs, operated by a dedicated team of supervisors, operators and fitters. They are capable of handling most types of UK S&C installations, as well as plain line.

Both PEM and LEM units can be equipped with radio remote control, allowing up to 16 of each unit to be controlled simultaneously. The PEM remote control can also be used to operate any of the individual units alone, or in tandem with any other.

Typically, a new S&C installation will be pre-assembled at a site close to its final installation point. The PEM units are positioned on the pre-assembled S&C according to the type and configuration of the crossings and switchblades, but are generally spaced between 9m and 12m. Once in position, the PEMs are secured to the pre-assembled panels.
Using the PEM units to lift and slew the S&C panels, the assembly is “walked” from the assembly site to the track leading to the final installation point. With the assembly lifted using the PEMs, the LEM trolleys are positioned under it, so that it can be lowered on to them for transportation. The assembly is then taken to site using the LEM trolleys; the trolleys are equipped with slewing tables, which permit the load to move laterally and follow most track curvature.

At the site, with the old S&C installation removed and the base layer of ballast prepared, temporary track is laid (if required) to allow the LEM trolleys to bring the new assembly into position. The PEM units are then used to lift the assembly, the LEM trolleys are driven away and the temporary track is removed by the LEMs.

The PEM units can then be used to lower the assembly into position, with any final movement adjustments being made by the slewing action of the PEMs.

Once the new switch assembly is in position the PEMs can be released, and driven away, or lifted from the track by means of a suitable crane.
Our Depot

Depot Facility

The major depot facility of the Rail Services Division of Colas Rail is located at Rugby where the servicing and repair of on track machines, on track plant and locomotives is undertaken. Maintenance and repair works are undertaken in workshops that enjoy all the facilities that one would expect to find in any major railway maintenance depot.

The depot is accessed by rail from the West Coast main line and is also but a short distance by road from the M1 and M6. Visitors to the depot can walk to the facility within just a few minutes from Rugby mainline railway station whilst those travelling by road can either park in the depot car park or at the newly opened Network Rail car park located outside the station.

Workshop staff in the depot are trained and assessed in their respective roles and trades to ensure that a high level of staff competency is maintained that meets the requirements of the Colas Rail competency management system through on-going training and competency assessment.

The depot comprises of the main workshop facilities and offices where the management team of the Rail Services Division are based. The Operations Control Centre is located in the Rugby offices and operate on a 24/7 basis throughout the year.

Facilities at the depot include, but are not limited to the following:

- Fuel point delivery system for rail vehicles;
- Lifting equipment including 8 x 25 tonne rail vehicle lifting jacks, road mobile crane and forklift truck;
- Maintenance roads for rail vehicles under cover with pit road facilities;
- Concrete hard standing for the calibration of rail vehicle equipment;
- Fume extraction system;
- Workshop, stores and welfare facilities;
- A well managed workshop where staff can work on rail vehicles under cover in a safe working environment.

If there is a requirement by a third party to make use of the facilities available at the depot for either a short or long term hire (dependent upon availability), please contact a member of the commercial team on 01788 544863 to discuss your requirements.
Colas Rail owns and operates a Kirow 1200 UK rail crane which incorporates the most advanced rail crane design and materials technology available today; harnessed to Kirow’s engineering expertise in meeting Colas Rail’s exacting performance specification and conforming to UK Railway Group Standards.

Colas Rail believes that this crane offers the ultimate on-rail lift and carry capability in a highly flexible configuration which can work on virtually any railway worksite. The crane is a 1200 tonne load moment rail mounted crane with numerous design features including:

- An integral safety management system (PAT) to monitor and control all lifting duties both free on rail and with stabilisers deployed.
- A self-levelling device which allows the full duties to be utilised on track cant up to 160mm.
- Ability to operate at full duties with boom horizontal, allowing long and heavy loads to be carried free on rail.
- Main boom maximum radius of 24m, allowing maximum duty free on wheels, radius 24m - 36.5t or a maximum propped duty of 125t at 9.5m radius.

Delivered with the crane and the associated runner wagons is a complete range of lifting beams and equipment to meet specific client and company requirements on individual worksites.
Our commitment

Our promise to you

At Colas Rail we look outwards to our customers seeing things from their point of view.

We respect their views, respond to their suggestions and are proactive in anticipating their needs. We are creative and innovative in our approach, and we aim to always exceed the expectations of customers and others with whom we work. As individuals, we take full responsibility for our own performance and decisions. We are always seeking innovative ways to generate performance and growth. As employees, we must also deliver value to our shareholders, including profits that grow sustainably year on year.

We are committed to delivering on our promise, to our employees, the people we work with, our customers and all our stakeholders.

What next?

To find out more about Colas Rail, Rail Services, please visit www.colasrail.co.uk/railservices

Alternatively email railservices@colasrail.co.uk or call 020 7593 5353 to arrange a meeting and see how we can help you.

We strive for excellence and have a passion for success in all that we do.
The Colas Group is a world leader in road construction. Colas Rail is one of Europe’s leading providers of rail infrastructure services. It combines engineering skills of all our specialist business to provide total solutions in all aspects of rail infrastructure, from high speed rail systems to light and urban rail.

Rail Services
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