

# Case Study



## Stansted Airport

### Constellation Bins at Stansted Airport

**Background:** In late 2011, Bob Burgess of LPL Construction Services made contact with Gary Mills, area sales Manager for Leafield Environmental, in order to discuss a potential new project at Stansted Airport. Stuart Clarkson, Stansted Airport Contracts Manager had asked Bob, LPL Construction Services' on-site man, to source replacements for the current contraband collection units.

These units sit outside the security gates and are there for passengers to deposit dangerous and restricted items that are not allowed in hand luggage, such as sharp items, flammable substances, drinks and other liquids in containers over 100ml.

**The Opportunity:** The existing units had been designed specifically for the job and had been very expensive to acquire initially. In the cold light of day they had proved to be insufficiently robust to stand up to the everyday wear and tear of airport life. These existing units were made of laminated chipboard, (not dissimilar to kitchen cabinets). Time had clearly taken its toll. The laminate on the lower part of the units was cracked and in places missing, as a result of repeated hits from

luggage trolleys and wheeled cases. The door hinges had also suffered and had been replaced on several occasions.

All-in-all, the old units did not befit the modern airport environment that was Stansted. The situation called for a durable bespoke collection unit that could withstand the clatter of luggage trolleys and the bangs of heavy suitcases being perched on the top for last minute contents changes... not to mention the occasional customer using it as a makeshift bed while waiting for a flight.

Both Bob and Stuart had consulted several manufacturers but could find nothing that remotely met the brief. Other bin manufacturers were only interested in supplying ready-made items and could not (or would not) entertain the idea of a bespoke solution.

Having supplied Envirobins to the Airport some time before, the company was invited to make a proposal and this is where Leafield Environmental's outstanding design capabilities and willingness to listen and learn came to the fore.



Constellation bin in-situ at Stanstead Airport





**The Solution:** The design department quickly produced concept visuals for a series of semi-modular metal units, each with separate colourful, rotationally moulded lid apertures. With further input from customer, the design was amended and honed into a 5-aperture, powder coated steel unit with individual steel lockable doors hiding separate 90 litre rotationally moulded plastic liners. The individual collection streams were specified as flammable items, sharp items, general waste, plastic bottles and lighters & matches.

The unit design also included a lightweight, Dibond, aluminium composite, up-stand panel to carry the airport's message.

The final design and quotation were accepted and an order duly placed in late 2012 for delivery in January 2013.

**The Follow-on:** During this process, Stuart also identified a further problem area in the airport. Having set up a display case to identify the types of items not permissible in hand luggage... large deodorants, bottles of water, jars of Marmite and the like... there was clearly a need for a table where passengers could rummage through their hand luggage in order to remove offending items and also receptacles to collect this discard. Stuart suggested that the two be combined... a packing/unpacking table with integral collection bins.

Again the Leaffield Environmental were invited to propose a solution, the location was evaluated and three design concepts were put forward, largely in keeping with the style of the initial bin but incorporating a substantial stainless steel table top. The designs were received favourably, an order placed, manufacture commenced and delivery was completed in May.



#### Customer Evaluation:

"The provision of a five collection stream facility is essential to assist the smooth and speedy passage of passengers through security to airside," said Stuart Clerkson. "Thanks to Leaffield Environmental's willingness to listen to our needs in the first instance, their creative design capabilities and flexible manufacturing approach we now have a functional contraband collection solution in keeping with the quality image we strive to portray."



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