



CUT TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP BY MONITORING OPERATIONAL DATA

Plant operations are complicated, requiring a nearly limitless number of moving parts to work together seamlessly. Especially in large fleets, fleet managers don't have the ability to oversee operational details for individual trucks. Even when functioning properly, inefficiency in a single component, process or piece of equipment can have a major impact on the overall uptime and output of the business. Furthermore, operator compliance with various health and safety regulations is critical for organizational success, avoidance of injuries and costly fines.

Today's telematics and fleet management tools allow lift truck owners to accurately monitor and measure truck data to make operational decisions that improve maintenance, reduce energy cost and maximize operator productivity—all resulting in a lower total cost of ownership.

// GET A FULL OPERATIONAL VIEW

An active fleet of lift trucks represents a significant investment that must not be compromised by abuse, neglect or unauthorized operation. Furthermore, beyond simple reporting on vehicle usage and performance information, many fleet managers are increasingly responsible for delivering actionable data on workforce productivity, efficiency and regulatory compliance.

The pressures of balancing fleet efficiency and operator performance can be mitigated by having access to the right data. Understanding an organization's total cost of operation, including contract costs, maintenance, acquisition, labor, shift utilization and more, allows fleet managers to optimize fleet size and structure for maximum productivity. To effectively monitor and analyze these key data points and trends over time, lift truck fleets must be equipped with comprehensive telemetry systems.



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WHAT IS TELEMETRY?

Telemetry is the process of remotely capturing specific measurements and other meaningful data in its given application. In addition to tracking, recording and reporting data, a telemetry system allows managers to remotely command or otherwise exert real-time control over the equipped machinery.

// PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

A recent survey indicated that while 80 percent of companies track lift truck fleet data in some way, only 25 percent track equipment and utilization by specific drivers. These days it is imperative to keep detailed records of lift truck fleet usage, service and maintenance schedules, as well as impact incidents to remain accountable and compliant with business leadership and industry regulations. Modern telemetry systems have evolved to enable effortless access to immediate and actionable data and have quickly become integral to the efficiency of materials handling operations around the globe.

Designed to evaluate fleet utilization, impacts, idle time and maintenance, lift truck telemetry systems offer fleet managers the ability to make quick and informed decisions about fleet size, composition and use. Features such as fault code tracking, impact sensing and preventative maintenance allow companies to get the most out of their existing assets, which can lengthen the life of their fleet and run their trucks longer between repairs which helps to reduce downtime and overall cost of operations. Fleet managers also benefit from having a comprehensive view of hour meter and usage tracking and cost of operations to maintain a right-sized fleet composed of equipment tailored to meet their specific operational challenges.

// DATA POINTS

Here are a few of the key data points to capture in a successful lift truck telemetry program:

Fault Codes

- Logs fault code events identified by affected vehicles
- Allows fleet managers to discern severity of faults and respond accordingly
- Sends real-time email alerts for immediate attention and store alerts for follow-up action during routine maintenance

Preventative Maintenance

- Tracks maintenance based on custom parameters
- Valuable for diverse lift truck fleets with unique maintenance intervals and service requirements
- Over time, the service history and maintenance forecast can be used to determine both fleet and individual truck needs

Impacts

- Tracks and measures instances where impacts exceed a preset impact force benchmark
- Sends real-time email alerts with impact details including time of impact, direction and force, vehicle ID and operator ID
- Allows fleet managers to assess vehicle damage and surrounding structures for quick response

Hour Meter and Usage

- Reports utilization of individual lift trucks and aggregates data
- Compares fleet vehicles based on hour meter to clock vehicle usage over a user-specified time interval (based on shifts, days or other time periods)
- Allows fleet managers to compare utilization and efficiency between shifts and jobs, or seasonally, enabling optimum workforce planning and operational consistency



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Cost of Operations

- Operational reports per truck, fleet and location
- Ability to analyze total cost of ownership in measurements per hour, day, week, month or year or any user-specified date ranges
- Comprehensive reporting allows fleet managers to respond rapidly at the first indication of operational inefficiency

Automatic Shutdown

- Monitors truck activity, observes operator presence and triggers shutdown when preset parameters of inactivity are met
- Prevents hours of unnecessary idling, records delineating vehicle use and enhances energy conservation initiatives

GPS Integration

- Identifies the location of lift trucks, monitors travel patterns and provides data on areas prone to congestion and where impacts have occurred
- Allows fleet managers to analyze trends over time and update traffic patterns as needed to help maximize workflow efficiency and safety

Access Control

- Prevents unauthorized lift truck access by requiring operator authentication before vehicle is operable
- Increases operator accountability to help improve driving behavior which can reduce damage and repairs

Integrating a telemetry system into a lift truck fleet, large or small, can be done easily by working with an expert to assess and outfit according to the unique needs of the individual operation.

IT'S THE LAW – OSHA OPERATOR CHECKLISTS

OSHA requires that all forklifts be examined at least once daily before being placed into operation. Typically, operators work from preset checklists, examining the equipment components, fluids and functionality before use. With a telemetry system, these checklists can be programmed into an equipped tracking unit and provide immediate, remote visibility into compliance practices and trends. Integrating this process into a fleet's telemetry reporting system streamlines the checklist process for operators and encourages greater discipline for completing comprehensive equipment inspections.