

Loading the smart

Transport operators need exact readings of their load to ensure they are making the most of their equipment. The **LoadSMART** on-board weighing system from **Commercial Transport Solutions** uses the latest technology to deliver an accurate and reliable weighing system.

Commercial Transport Solutions have taken advantage of recent advancements in PDA (touch screen) sensor and wireless technology to design the LoadSMART weighing system. The system was conceived to maximise the productivity of transport operators by allowing them to load to maximum limits first time, saving both time and money. LoadSMART was developed with the

a basic version of the system to us about 12 months ago and we worked together to make improvements. For example, initially the system was powered by the truck, but it now powers off a source within the cabin, meaning it doesn't drain the truck," says Antony D'Abaco. Raj adds that in designing LoadSMART, he had the customer foremost in his mind. "Our aim was to develop a weighing

The LoadSMART system has been designed and tested in Australia for Australian conditions.

help of D'Abaco Sand, Soil & Mini Mix Concrete, a family-owned business who have been carting building and landscape supplies throughout Victoria for around 40 years. "Raj Mali from Commercial Transport Solutions asked us to let him test LoadSMART on our vehicles. He bought

system that meets the customers expectation in terms of accuracy, reliability, quality and functionality and we believe we have achieved this," he says. The LoadSMART weighing system uses highly rated sensors to measure the weights on each axle group, thereby providing the total weight for truck and



trailer combinations. LoadSMART measures air bag pressure on air suspensions, while on mechanical suspensions the system measures linear displacement for vertical movement. Commercial Transport Solutions say that the sensors are able to provide precise measurements of the suspensions with an accuracy of ± 0.5 per cent, providing an overall accuracy to the driver of ± 1.5 per cent of the maximum load.

Once the measurements have been recorded, the LoadSMART sensor unit sends the information to the display unit wirelessly via the LoadSMART modem positioned in the vehicle cab. The system is set up by operators entering their vehicles into the LoadSMART programme and calibrating each vehicle in the unladen and laden states over a calibrated weighbridge.

To access the information, the driver uses the LoadSMART programme displayed on the unit, simply pressing 'START' to receive axle group weights. When the programme is not receiving the axle group weights it automatically displays the last weight readings so the driver does not have to memorise the weights. To go the next step the LoadS-

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MART programme has a 'weigh docket' feature that can record the vehicle weights in the display unit for future reference, eliminating the need for drivers to manually record weights. Operators can have as many of these electronic weigh dockets as their business requires and are able to view them on the LoadSMART programme as and when they are needed. The LoadSMART display unit stores the information for a fleet's trucks and trailers separately, allowing operators to transfer each vehicle and their load configurations to other LoadSMART display units.

"LoadSMART suits our purposes exactly."

After being with D'Abaco for 23 years, Tradesman and Driver, Gary Keown, certainly has the experience to know what he's talking about. Gary is currently driving a 30 tonne, Iveco Stralis tandem with a three axle trailer, taking in areas as far and wide as Creswick, just north of Ballarat, Bairnsdale to the east, Wagga Wagga in the north, Portsea to the south and all over Melbourne. He says that having the LoadSMART system attached to his unit is making his job easier.

"It suits our purposes exactly. We pick up landscaping material and natural stone from small river quarries in country Victoria that don't have weigh bridges, so it helps me know that my load is a legal weight," he says. "Also, some of the product we transport is sold by volume and not weight. LoadSMART gives us a better idea of how we can maximise our load and therefore our profit."

"I do a lot of loading out of our yard and the scales come in very handy for that. Every time I've tested them so far they've come in 100 per cent accurate."

Antony adds that LoadSMART has also been useful in locations that do have weighing bridges.

"When we load at quarries, for example, the loader driver uses the scales on their loaders, so it's great to be able to double-

check ourselves. This way, when we reach the weighing bridge, we have that peace of mind knowing that we won't be sent back to tip off any excess weight," he says. The LoadSMART system has been designed and tested in Australia for Australian conditions and comes with a two year warranty. It is available for truck and semi, truck and B-Double, and truck and dog combinations. **TBB**

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