



Advances in Technology Improve Fleet Management

Delivery vehicles of all shapes and sizes travel hundreds of thousands of miles on the roads and highways over their life spans. Delays cost fleet operators valuable time and money. For example, consider the case of a distribution center that manages a fleet of haulers delivering throughout the southeastern United States. In this scenario, truck number 386 drives a circuit from the distribution center in Atlanta to Norfolk, Virginia, then to Nashville, Tennessee, and on to New Orleans, Louisiana, before finally returning to Atlanta. What happens if the truck has an engine problem in North Carolina?

From the time the driver parks the vehicle in North Carolina until the time the vehicle resumes its scheduled route, this delay may result in the loss of a customer whose goods were not received by the required receipt date. Multiply the impact of many similar situations across an entire fleet, and the effect on productivity for a company is potentially devastating. Whether large or smallscale, fleet operators must deploy the right technology to monitor every vehicle and ensure the highest standards of operational safety and efficiency.

The good news for logistics firms is that advanced vehicle maintenance technology can reduce downtime. Versatile mobile computers, software and wireless technology combine to deliver a powerful solution, enabling logistics companies to achieve higher productivity, improving the bottom line and overall customer satisfaction.

Eliminate Costly Downtime with the Mobile Gateway Plus (MGPlus)

It's important for any on-board technology product to meet the best practices assigned by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). This organization has developed a variety of protocols that enable vehicle -monitoring codes to be transmitted via the vehicle's built -in computer system to other computers. One of the standards, J -1708, defines the type of serial data communication link that may be used in heavy -duty vehicle applications. The J-1708 standard allows for "flexibility in expansion and technological advancements with minimum hardware and software impact on in -place assemblies."

Symbol Technologies developed the MG -Plus in -vehicle computer with the ability to connect to the vehicle data bus using the SAE standard J -1708 protocol. The MG-Plus is able to send data to a mobile computer in the cab, notifying the driver of any code signals. Also, the MG -Plus wirelessly transmits vehicle data to the company's fleet management team, who can then evaluate the vehicle data and react to an emergency or plan scheduled maintenance and repairs.

The MG-Plus is flexible enough to enable fleet managers to configure the communications log for every computer, including handheld computers. With capabilities for wireless local area networking (WLAN), wireless wide area networking (WWAN) via Cingular/Mobitex and satellite communications, the MG -Plus delivers high -powered connectivity capabilities to all your mobile assets.



MG-Plus: Merging Preventative Maintenance with Scheduled Service

The MG-Plus from Symbol Technologies not only connects to the J -1708 vehicle data bus to record codes and notify the driver of potential problems, but the computer can also notify the fleet management team at headquarters in real -time about potential problems before they cause a breakdown. Considering our scenario described earlier, before truck 386 leaves Atlanta again, any codes captured during the previous route are analyzed and issues or problems are corrected as required. The company's fleet management team minimizes downtime by keeping vehicles running longer and stronger, and the cost savings can be significant.

In addition to mechanical codes, the MG -Plus uses the J -1708 protocol to collect driver/vehicle interactive data to survey the use and status of a vehicle and ensure the safety of the driver. Information that can be collected includes miles per hour (MPH), revolutions per minute (RPM), fuel level, tire pressure, oil pressure, brake application timing and pressure and mileage, to name a few. Regardless of fleet size, keeping every vehicle in proper working order is an important element in the success of a logistics business. Collecting real -time data from each truck in the fleet and receiving that data immediately back at the central hub enables you to operate confidently, knowing your customers will get their orders, and your drivers and trucks will return safely, ready to roll again.

Take the Fast Route to Increased Revenue

Improved fleet management results in greater productivity and enables your business to achieve greater profits, expanded business and competitive advantage. The MG -Plus protects your company's greatest assets: your employees, your customers and your vehicles. It's available as a complete solution from Symbol, with full system integration, software and SymbolCare SM Service and support.