

Tenfold increase in weighing accuracy for waste recycling center

LAS Recycling Ltd's material recycling facility in Wales, United Kingdom, has improved its weighing accuracy by a factor of ten and has halved the amount of time it takes to weigh processed waste thanks to Avery Weigh-Tronix's forklift truck scale.

The system also uses RF data transfer to improve data collection, recording and reporting.

The material recycling facility has a contract with Ceredigion county council to sort its recyclable waste. LAS Recycling sorts the clear bags collected from the council's residents into different recyclable materials. This is then either further processed or collected by other reprocessors.

Before installing the forklift truck scale, LAS Recycling would use a truck scale to weigh its processed material. After sorting, the waste was separated into different cages, which when full would be taken to the truck scale by a forklift and weighed. The driver would collect a ticket from the truck scale and would input the data into the computer system later. Finally the cages are taken to larger bins where they are emptied.

Says Rhys Griffiths, truck scale operator for the materials recycling facility: "We felt that we could improve our process. Drivers would typically take a minute and a half to lift a cage, take it to the truck scale, weigh it, take it to the larger collection bins and empty the contents. On a busy day we would weigh more than 60 loads, which would also cause congestion with incoming and outgoing traffic at the truck scale and further slow the whole process."

Accuracy was another issue, with the truck scale recording loads to the nearest 20kg. To save time, tare weights for the empty cages and the forklift were pre-recorded. This further added to inaccuracies since the amount of fuel in the forklift could affect the results by up to 60kg.

Now by using the on board forklift scale LAS Recycling can lift, weigh, move and record a load in one operation. It eliminates the need for a separate trip to the truck scale and by using RF technology transfers the data directly into the company's ISIS software system. It also weighs to the nearest 2kg and will record the cage's full and tare weight.

Says Mark Saunders, director at LAS Recycling: "The Forklift truck scale has made a huge difference to our business."

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TECHNICAL

QTLTSC forklift truck scale

- Available in 5,000lb (2,500kg) or 10,000lb (5,000kg) capacities
- Overload protected – withstands up to 200% of full capacity or 100% for side loads
- Graphic display provides simple step-by-step operating instructions and comprehensive weight and consignment details
- 5 programmable function keys and a 750 record memory for customised operation
- Range of communication options including Ethernet, network connections, radio frequency and infra-red



“Our revenue comes from waste delivered over the truck scale and also from sale of the recyclable materials. There can be a vast difference in the value of the various materials, so the weight data that we collect is extremely important.

“Operationally we have become far more efficient and as a result have increased the capacity on site. Most of our customers require information regarding the breakdown of the waste they deliver to us and with this system we can give them accurate and up to date information. Also, because the forklift system interfaces directly with our computer system, data is entered automatically and discrepancies due to manual inputting are eliminated.”

Avery Weigh-Tronix’s forklift scale is designed for harsh operating environments and the company claims that it is the most durable system available.

Its patented Weigh Bar® weight sensors and out-of-level compensation delivers accurate readings even when fork positions change, when wheels are on uneven surfaces or if the mast is tilted. The heavy-duty carriage comes in a range of widths to fit any ITA class II and class III cleat type forklift truck and can be fitted with a choice of instrumentation to suit the application.

The Simulcast WI-130 indicator is mounted inside the cab. It requires minimal space and is simple to operate with easy to read large digits on a backlit display. It provides a simple and efficient solution for capturing, integrating and managing weight data within an organisation’s management system. The indicator stores up to 750 records and can produce data and reports in several different formats. SimulCast WI-130 supports bar code scanners, infrared transceivers and RF communication for wireless data transfer.

Features

- Robust forklift truck scale with programmable indicator
- Weighs and records goods on the move for fast, accurate inventory control
- Can be fitted to any industry-standard forklift truck without welding
- Fully programmable, stainless steel indicator records ID numbers, load and accumulated weights and customised data for management information and control
- Can be linked to printers, bar code scanners, computers and other peripherals for integration into your network

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