

Best Practice: Electronic Tracking System



Category: Electronic Surveillance

Location: Hong Kong International Terminal
& Modern Terminals, Ltd.

Date Observed: October 2004

POC: n/a

WWW: n/a

Description: Electronic tracking system for vehicles.

Discussion: Both terminals utilized an electronic tracking system linked to each vehicle used for transporting containers. This includes trailers and container pickers. At any given time, the terminal's command centers are capable of determining the exact position of one of these vehicles and establishing its current operations and/or future orders. Verification of the vehicle's current location can be conducted by use of closed circuit television cameras capable of identifying any vehicle anywhere on either terminal.

Potential Down-side: Implementing this type of tracking system is costly and requires computer maintenance and training of personnel.

Conclusion: This type of technology may not be necessary at smaller facilities but it significantly increases monitoring capabilities and efficiency at larger terminals. Initial and on-going costs could be probative to smaller operations.

Cost: Initial installation, training and maintenance costs can be significant. A cost/benefit analysis would be necessary for smaller terminals before implementing this type of technology.