

Best Practice: Vehicle Tracking System



Category:	Security Infrastructure
Location first Observed:	PSA Container Terminal - Singapore
Date First Observed:	June 2004
POC:	Port facility Security Officer

Description:

Trucks transporting containers in and out of the port are tracked using an Electronic Tracking System installed in the truck.

Discussion:

Trucks working in the port are required to install a radio transponder that can be triangulated via antenna in the port area. At any given time the terminal command center is capable of determining the exact position of one of these vehicles and establish its current operations. Follow up verification of the vehicle's current operations can be conducted using the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system capable of identifying any vehicle anywhere on the terminal. Systems of this type often have a "panic" button in the vehicle, which can be used to signal the need for help, along with the vehicle's exact location. Similar systems exist in the U.S and are used by the police to locate stolen vehicles (LoJack) and to keep track of the location of police vehicles. Delivery services such as UPS, and the General Motors OnStar automatic vehicle location monitoring system employ similar technology.

Potential Down-side:

Employee morale. Organizations that have implemented these type systems often have to overcome employee relations issues who resent having their every movement monitored. This is generally transient, and employees get accustomed to the new working environment.

Conclusion:

This monitoring system serves two purposes; ensuring that vehicle operations are run as efficiently as possible and providing an additional layer of security by verifying that vehicles are conducting authorized operations in the proper location. The system is more effective when used in conjunction with CCTV.

Cost:

Expensive. Equipment and installation costs will vary based on brand and specifications, and operations will depend on the size of the antenna system depending on the size of the port facility.