Standards for fleet management improve productivity

In 2009, GS1 Spain launched a working group to define the business requirements for using the GS1 System of standards to make fleet management more efficient and more effective. Companies like El Corte Inglés, DIA (Carrefour group), Mercadona, DHL, Eroski, Easytech, Campofrío and Sotec took part in this collaborative effort.

Fleet management is a function which allows companies that rely on transportation in their business to remove – or at least greatly minimize – the risks associated with owning and maintaining vehicles. Proper fleet management can optimize investments, improve efficiency and productivity, reduce a company's overall transportation costs, provide100% compliance with government legislation, ensure cold-chain management for chilled or frozen food and much more.

The most basic component in all fleet management systems is vehicle tracking. This is usually GPS-based, but in some cases can instead be done using a cellular network triangulation platform. Once a given vehicle's location, direction and speed are determined from the GPS or cellular input, additional tracking capabilities transmit other bits of information to a Fleet Management software application, such as temperature, door status, cooling equipment on/off, engine on/off, weight et cetera. Data can be transmitted either terrestrially or by satellite. Advanced fleet management systems can also connect to

GS1 Standards can play a useful role in fleet management systems

the vehicle's onboard computer and gather data such as mileage and fuel consumption from it for use in a global statistical-analysis scheme.

All of this data gathering and analysis can be managed and run by either an in-house fleet-management department or by an outsourced fleet-management provider.
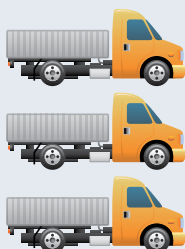
GS1 standards could have a significantly beneficial role to play in fleet management systems like the ones described here. The GS1 Spain working group successfully identified a set of requirements and transmitted them to the eCom Logistics Standards Work Group within the GS1 Global Standards Management Process. The requirements will be included in the Business Requirement Analysis document for the GS1 eCom Transport Status Notification message. The result will be a standard that allows for the exchange of information between all the trading partners based on GS1 eCom XML messages and using the GS1 GLN to identify the parties involved. Implementation among GS1 Spain members companies will likely occur in 2010, as soon as the GS1 XML messages are available.

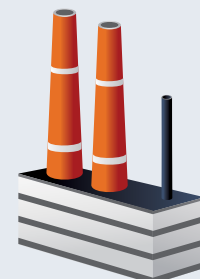For more information about GS1 Spain, visit www.gs1es.org

Fleet Track Information consolidator
- Logistic Services Provider
- Truck tracking service provider

Fleet Track Information Manager
- Logistic Services Client
- Transport compagny

TruckStatus