Volvo Construction Equipment
Building Tomorrow

3 WAYS WHEEL LOADER ON-BOARD WEIGHING SYSTEMS CAN GENERATE QUICK ROI

Eric Yeomans, product manager, wheel loaders

One of the most recent advances we've seen in wheel loader technology has been the addition of on-board weighing and payload management systems. While the upgrade cost may not seem worth it to some — especially if you've been doing quite well without them for so long — those using the systems are seeing a definite return on investment. With the ability to see real-time payload data accurate to within ±1%, these systems can generate ROI in the following ways.

1. Reduce labor costs

With the job done right the first time, these systems drastically reduce the occurrence for inaccurate loads needing to be reloaded and reweighed. In a high-production, commodity-driven environment, this can have an enormous impact on labor costs. Let's take the following example:

500 truck loads per month x 15% inaccurate load rate x 12 months per year
=
900 trucks needing reloaded/reweighed per year
x
1 additional labor hour per reloaded truck
x
$25 per hour labor cost
=
$22,500 potential labor savings per year

2. Reduce fuel costs

In the aforementioned scenario, labor is not the only cost added by inaccurate loads. Between the loader and the truck – avoiding reloading and reweighing also helps reduce fuel costs.

4 gallons burned per reload (truck and wheel loader)

x

900 reloads per year

x

$2.80 per gallon.

=

$10,080 potential fuel savings per year

3. Reduce the costs of overloading

In addition to the labor and fuel costs associated with reloading and reweighing – an overloaded truck can mean additional unexpected problems, including unnecessary wear and tear on the truck, increased safety risks (such as tipping) and even fines if the truck makes it on the road. While it differs by state and percent overloaded – these fines can often exceed $5,000 per incident. If a payload management system helps avoids even just a few of these incidents per year, you could be saving tens of thousands of dollars.

4. Save administrative time

Some payload management systems, such as Volvo Load Assist, allow you to access all the data for each job (or truck loaded), via USB or via the cloud. This data can be easily integrated into many ERP systems and the data includes everything from tons of material, type of material and density of material, to name of the job, type of vehicle loaded, customer name and more. This helps reduce the administrative costs of capturing this data manually and also provides an extra layer of protection against liability if something is questioned in the future.

While some may be skeptical about investing in a new technology, when used in the right application, I truly believe
systems like Volvo Load Assist can pay for themselves rather quickly. Once they do, everything else is money in the bank

Meet The Expert:

Eric has spent more than 40 years with Volvo, dating back to 1977 where he began his career at a Volvo CE dealership. He has worked in a variety of roles within Volvo, as well as Volvo dealers —including customer support management, telematics management and product management positions. Today, as product manager for wheel loaders in North America, works with the regional product requirements Volvo's district teams, dealers, representing the regional requests by providing product training, support and design input.

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