

Professional and profitable

At TNT, mobile weighing pallet truck scale from METTLER TOLEDO, developed in close co-operation with the client, ensure demonstrably correct weight recording nationwide.

Established in 1946, TNT (Thomas Nationwide Transport) has developed to become one of the largest transport and logistics enterprises in the world and is a subsidiary of the TNT Post Group (TPG). This public company with its 130,000 employees and numerous services transports 134 million packages in over 200 countries every week. In Germany TNT employs around 4200 people in 32 branches, which in 1997 achieved an overall turnover of around 360 million Euro, with a volume of over 11 million individual consignments.



■ A company like TNT transports a massive quantity of the most diverse goods daily (from a simple standard envelope to a car windscreen or even a printing machine weighing a tonne). To ensure a quick, safe and reliable service, they naturally invest a lot in their logistics. This investment is needed to keep one step ahead of the competition and to be able to offer customers its first class service at competitive prices.

Against this background, last year the decision was taken to close one of the last remaining logistical gaps: the precise and time-saving weighing of goods which cannot go on a belt. Packages which can go on belts, whose weight and volume are recorded automatically by cargoscanners or checkweighers, are processed at the main bases. At the branches, where goods could not go on a belt to be recorded and weighed, they had to rely on the customer's information or their own estimation. This method was associated with great disadvantages in the correct operations plan-

ning of the means of transport, as well as in invoicing customers.

DH2007 mobile Pallet Truck Scale is the ideal solution

The prime concern at TNT is to transport each package from the sender to the recipient as quickly as possible. For this reason, the problem outlined above could not be solved by stationary scales. The process "pallet off the truck / transport to scales / weighing / transport back" would have been beyond the bounds of any reasonable time frame. But a new development from METTLER TOLEDO was more convincing: the DH2007 mobile pallet truck scale in conjunction with the ID7 weighing terminal. An equipment combination which, due to its great performance capabilities and potential for expansion, was most suitable for fulfilling the customer specific requirements of TNT. So TNT ordered 50 units straight away, 3 of which have been in use in the Wiesbaden depot since the start of this year.



It could hardly be simpler

Directly after delivery to the branch by courier drivers, the data from the delivery notes are recorded and stored in the host system. In parallel each package is given a routing label. Subsequently the goods which cannot be placed on a belt – and which are waiting in the depot for transport onwards – are weighed on the DH2007 pallet truck scales from METTLER TOLEDO. First of all the pallet is lifted manually, whilst the weight is settling, the operator scans the routing label and the barcode identifies the package clearly. Then the weight which has been established (max. 1500kg / resolution 500g, certifiable) is shown in the large display of the ID7. Before the goods are transported further the pallet dimensions (for charging by volume weight) can be entered via the keyboard. All transactions are now stored in the memory of the ID7 weighing terminal. At the end of the shift the data is transferred via the Ethernet - radio transmission is also possible - to the PC for further processing and invoicing. Since the ID7 also has an alibi memory, even after data has been re-recorded, each individual weighing can be traced. This is an advantage which comes into its own in the event of any claims.

Fast in every respect

"The optimum adaptation of the ID7 software to our specific procedures, the simple operation and naturally the principle of "mobile" weighing saves us a great deal of time in the weighing of goods which cannot go on belts. Time is a resource that is in really short supply at TNT", stresses Gerhard Stensel, the responsible project manager at TNT. Since the proportion of goods which cannot be put on belts (currently around 30 %) will increase further, this is another invaluable advantage. For example, he mentions the shipment of heavy, large-volume consignments by 9 o'clock the following morning across the whole of Germany and in many European countries for companies with "just in time" production. Naturally TNT are pleased about the fact that the use of the Pallet Truck Scale really pays for itself. Says Mr Stensel: "Since we have had the DH2007 in use, post hoc invoicing has not only become possible, but provable too. Between a stated 200 kg and a checked weight of 280 kg, there is profit that we wouldn't want to miss out on." Looked at in this light, the DH2007 ensures not only fast work procedures but also pays for itself quickly.

A positive conclusion is also drawn by Stefan Fischer, the responsible project manager at METTLER TOLEDO: "In this large-scale project, TNT presented us with a technical challenge as well as a challenge in terms of time scale. By way of a response to this opportunity and in the time that was available to us, we developed a new forklift weighing system, which for one thing yields the desired economic and technical benefits for our customer, and also secures us a unique position in the market."

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