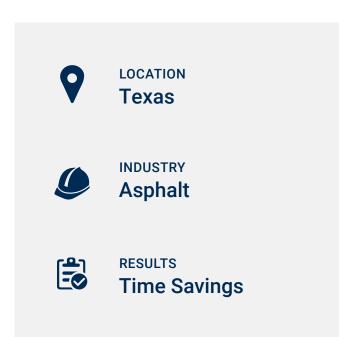**Command Alkon**

LIBRA

Clark Asphalt

Clark Construction of Texas purchased an asphalt plant in New Braunfels, Texas, and that is when Clark Asphalt Products got their start supplying asphalt to the jobs that Clark Construction secured.

The Challenge

The plant runs with Astec scales, and for a while, they were utilizing Astec's Weighmate 2000 for their loadout operations. The system did the job for three years, but the functionality was a bit generic. Billy Ruff, Operations Manager at Clark Asphalt, wanted to discover a way to have some insight into what was happening at the plant while he couldn't physically be there. He began his quest for another solution with more features and capabilities to take advantage of that could also enable him to have some visibility into his operations while he focused on other aspects of the business.

The Solution

Clark Asphalt decided to install Libra Overhead Loadout, which interfaces with both of their Astec scales and their production system, and the Libra Web Services, which enables them to share data from anywhere with mobile connectivity. But why stop there? They also decided that the Libra Remote Access Client would also bring

efficiencies to their business because now they can log in from the office and see what is going on at the plant, add customers, keep the database up to date, and review and print reports. Clark Asphalt also recently implemented thermal printers for both of their scales, which enable their truck drivers to stay in the truck after the loadout process is complete.

LOCATION
Texas

INDUSTRY
Asphalt

RESULTS
Time Savings

The Result

The implementation process took about two or three months before everyone was on board and comfortable in operating the system. With the loadout system, the truck pulls up and the loader operator enters the truck number in and then begins either dual loading or single loading, depending on the number of trucks on the scale at the time. "With Libra's loadout system, we are able to easily find job orders, we can easily void or reprint a ticket in seconds – it is just as user-friendly on the technical side as it is on the loadout side," said Phillip Tower, Plant Manager at Clark Asphalt.

Web Services lets their foreman on the job receive alerts about every ticket and look at reports on a smart device without calling the plants. They also have the ability to let their customers look at the reports and see what is happening on their jobs through a Web Services portal.

"I'm hardly ever in the tower, so when my general superintendent is on the road, they can understand what is going on at the plant from their mobile device while I am managing other jobs," said Billy. I used to get several calls about what is going on at the plant in a day – with Web Services, I hardly ever get calls anymore."

The Remote Access Client removes the need for the operator to send reports each day. Their office manager can go into her office whenever she needs to because she doesn't have to wait until the plant is finished running to get the paperwork that she needs.

The thermal printers enable the driver to just pull ahead, grab his ticket from the kiosk, and get back on the road, improving their truck flow at the plant. The thermal printers were also extremely beneficial in keeping their operations going during new regulations and special mandates that were being implemented at the start of the corona virus pandemic. Before the printers were installed, the plant operator had to send the tickets from the tower down to the truck driver through a tube –

much like the tube that is used at the bank. Now, as soon as the truck is loaded and they drive off of the scale, the next truck can start the loadout process because the operator isn't handling tickets. Billy estimates that this new process saves them about an hour each day. The printers eliminate the extra touch points that would occur if the operator were involved in writing and handing off the tickets. Clark Asphalt's goal is ultimately to become completely paperless, and they are well on their way.

> *"With Libra's loadout system, we are able to easily find job orders, we can easily void or reprint a ticket in seconds – it is just as user-friendly on the technical side as it is on the loadout side."*

Clark Asphalt is also planning to implement the Silo Safety System, which is a completely stand-alone system featuring infrared sensors to enable each silo, if and only if, the truck is in the proper position. Two infrared sensor sets indicate when the vehicle is properly placed for loading and silo gate activation. Three sensor set configuration allows for detection of space between the cab and the trailer.

As the truck pulls through to the loadout station, it will break the infrared sensor beams to enable the silo to be opened. With the Silo Safety System, they can ensure that each driver is safe from the damage that can ensue from having a literal ton of hot asphalt drop on top of them. They can also prevent costly ramifications of their trucks being damaged by these materials.

Command Alkon

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