

Editorial

Safety and reductions in workplace accidents have dominated the last month in Victoria. Last month saw safety week as well as the Australian Logistics Council (ALC) T&L Safety Summit. It is clear that safety is a major issue in the T&L industry with injuries and workplace deaths tracking well above other sectoral averages. We may however be suffering from an 'it is not my problem' syndrome. Much of the focus is on the T or Transport element of the sector when in fact the L or Logistics element including warehousing and distribution clearly plays a major part.

If we are to attract the best and brightest to the sector we need to ensure that they have a safe environment to work. We commend the ALC and attendees at the Safety Summit for promoting safety as well as setting a range of goals for the sector.

Mark Holding, Principal - Agilistics

IRIA Website wins award

The IRIA web site has been awarded a Gold Award. The site has been awarded and voted by the official judges of the Australian Web Designers Network. The award is judged on the following categories: Graphics, Artwork, Layout, Navigability, Functionality and Originality.

[Click Here to view our Award Winning Website!!!](#)

Not-So-Perfect Order

Larry Lapide

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Thinking lean: The cure for what ails you

If you want proof that Logistics is a matter of life and death, visit your local hospital. Better yet, make a trip to New London, Conn., and visit Lawrence & Memorial Hospital. Tim Cavanagh will walk you through the Logistics of life and death.

Tom Andel

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How much of your WMS are you using?

Warehouse Management Systems (WMS) are reaching serious levels of complexity.

More and more is going into them and this is reflected in the price end users are asked to pay. So why are some customers not using significant parts of their system's functionality?

Alex Mills
Sales & Marketing Director
Chess Logistics Technology

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Is China the future of warehousing?

Bob Trebilcock

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Automated storage and retrieval system (AS/RS) basics

Automated storage and retrieval systems (AS/RS) reduce the labour needed for putaway and picking in warehouses and plants.

Automated storage and retrieval systems: often simply called AS/RS: are computer-controlled systems for storing and retrieving products in warehouses or manufacturing facilities without manual labour.

Large systems, known as unit-load AS/RS, typically store and retrieve pallet loads. Smaller systems, often called mini-load AS/RS, handle products in totes, trays or cartons.

Corinne Kator

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Warehouse and Distribution Centre: How to go greenfield

Over the past 10 years, my colleague, Bill Elenbark, and I have worked together on a number of greenfield projects with a wide variety of clients for Gross & Associates, a consulting firm based in Woodbridge, N.J. Together, we have christened many brand-new facilities, sited them in better locations with improved layouts, more efficient equipment and a whole lot more of space. We both agree that the key to success is in the planning and scheduling details: beware of the manager who can not be bothered by them.

Maida Napolitano

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The 10 Fallacies of Logistics Productivity Management

Productivity management represents perhaps the lowest hanging fruit for companies interested in reducing Supply Chain and distribution costs. With its accelerated ROI, a productivity management system delivers a rapid, deterministic payback that can improve distribution centre labour productivity 10-30 percent, as well as provide a long list of other benefits.

While many great companies in the retail, food, consumer goods, and third party logistics segments of the market have successfully implemented productivity management systems and achieved these benefits, many others have not. Given the clear economic and operational benefits of productivity management systems, the failure to implement advanced productivity management appears to be related to a number of misconceptions surrounding productivity management system process, technology and impact.

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Supplier-Supplier Relationships: Why They Matter

In this relationship, perhaps the most common, suppliers are primarily concerned about vying for the buying company's limited spend for each buying category, such as new contracts. To this end, suppliers withhold information from each other, and try to keep each other at bay. This situation creates what is typically known as information asymmetry: one supplier having comparatively more information than the other, or suppliers simply having different types of information. In this relationship, there is usually a winner and a loser.

This information is from an article appearing in Supply Chain Management Review by Thomas Y. Choi

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Five ways to fill the perfect order

The perfect order is one of the metrics used by more and more DC managers to gauge the success of their operations. By most measures, that means getting the right product, in the right quantity to the right customer at the right time. Sounds simple, right?

Not so fast, says Cal Petty, Supply Chain director for the Colorado-based consulting firm Cibe. While getting all the 'rights' perfect is important, it is also important that orders arrive undamaged, along with the documents and labels that make them easy for your customers to process and for you to do accurate billing.

Bob Trebilcock

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Two Faces to Leadership

A couple of months ago, I had a meeting with two managers from a company in preparation for a conference presentation I was to do for their people. The more senior of the managers (let's call him Bob) seemed quite aloof during the entire meeting. Bob didn't seem to be interested in what the other manager was saying, nor did he seem too attentive while I was speaking.

Recently I was at another meeting where each of these managers was in attendance. During the meeting, a very senior executive came into the room. Bob's whole demeanour changed instantly. He became much more animated, much more jovial, and much more engaging. This kind of scenario is one that is played out regularly.

By Steve Simpson CSP
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**āgīlīstīčš, vbl. phs.-
the ability to develop
and implement agile
logistics solutions
tailored to a specific
client's need (Aust)
2002**

Agilistics has been meeting the supply chain management needs of government and commercial entities since 2002.

Our extensive range of specialist services covers every aspect of the supply chain, and is designed to deliver world class business solutions that enhance both productivity and profitability.

The growing demand we are experiencing for these services is an outcome of Agilistics' focus on delivering projects on time, within budget and as defined.

We are driven to deliver business solutions for you that provide value and productivity and most importantly, that endure.

We look forward to working with you.

Mark Holding
Managing Director
Agilistics

Agilistics Case Study

Concept Assessment and Validation- Routing and Scheduling Engines

AGILISTICS was approached by a global waste management business to assess the validity of routing and scheduling in line with current systems employed in the business. The company is the provider of garbage collection, removal and disposal on a Global Basis. The business has a presence in all Australian states and has recently moved into the New Zealand market. The client base includes over 36,000 customers at 56,000 sites. Services extend from municipal residential waste collection including recyclables through to putrescible, solid and liquid commercial waste. With over 700 vehicles on a national basis and a staff of 2000 the company is a leader in the provision of waste services in its sector.

The solution provided by AGILISTICS involved validating the concept of transport routing and scheduling to determine if implemented software could add to the to the operational efficiency and contribute to the bottom line of the business. To validate the various software packages, AGILISTICS took the data from the various legacy systems and put it in a format that could be modelled by the third party software vendors. The results and associated business case was presented to the client.

AGILISTICS were able to provide a range of services for the client including discrete geocoding of defined routes, detailed benefit statements and independent recommendations based upon the needs of the business. Being independent of any software vendors, but having an excellent overview of most available routing and scheduling software offers placed AGILISTICS in a unique position to provide honest, unbiased advice.

AGILISTICS were able to provide a sanity check for the hard sell that some of the Routing and Scheduling software vendors were using on us. With AGILISTICS being independent it gave me and my operations team confidence that we would end up with the right decision

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The 2007 ERP in Manufacturing Benchmarking Report

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) strategies are driven by growth strategies, customer service expectations, and pressures to reduce costs. While ERP is generally viewed as a necessary infrastructure for all but the very smallest of companies, it is also a strategic weapon in streamlining and automating business processes – while providing visibility to those processes throughout the enterprise.

This report explores feedback provided by over 1400+ manufacturers, and aims to serve as a roadmap to those in the manufacturing community who desire to reduce costs, improve accuracy of inventory and schedules and develop customer responsiveness through successful ERP implementations.

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Zoned out: Deciding on how many zones to put in your picking system

Deciding how many zones to put in your picking system is not as easy as you might think.

Every once in a while I get a question from my partner at the Progress Group Steve Mulaik that sets me back a little. I think: "How could I have not thought about that before?" This time it was, "How do we decide how many zones we should have in a serial zone picking system?" It would have been nice to be able to say that we simply calculate the number of pickers required to meet the demand and then create a zone for each one of them. But, that answer ignores too many of the factors that make a system work well.

Jim Apple

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3PL relationships: More than a contract

Ask most shippers if they are happy with their third-party providers of warehousing or transportation services and their standard answer is 'yes.' Scratch a little deeper and the real perspectives start to emerge: perspectives quite often summed up in gripes about missed deliveries, missed opportunities, and persistent miscommunication.

Those viewpoints are made plain in the latest annual study of Third Party Logistics (3PL) services led by the Georgia Institute of Technology. Overall, respondents report basic satisfaction.

John Kerr

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Top 10 Supply Chain Technology Trends

It's easy to name 'mobility' and 'wireless' as trends, but it's less clear exactly what direction these developments are taking and how they can be used to improve business. One can hardly pick up a business or IT magazine without seeing multiple articles about the growth of mobile and wireless technologies. And it seems people can't put down their PDAs, smart phones and other mobile computing and communications devices, at least when judging by the adoption rates and future growth projections.

The Top 10 Technologies

Here are the top 10 trends and technologies impacting supply chain operations spanning production, distribution, retail and remote service.

1. Comprehensive connectivity – from 802.11 wireless LAN technologies, cellular networks, Bluetooth
2. Voice and GPS communication integrated into rugged computers
3. Speech recognition
4. Digital imaging
5. Portable printing
6. 2D & other bar coding advances
7. RFID
8. RTLS
9. Remote management
10. Wireless and device security

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