

AcuTrax - Cylinder Tracking

AcuTrax is a unique cylinder tracking system for the compressed gas industry that offers you a number of benefits.

Provides Superior Asset Protection

AcuTrax protects your investment. You may have hundreds of thousands or even millions of your hard earned dollars invested in cylinders. You owe it to yourself to protect these assets. An individual "ID" (identification) of each asset is the only way to accurately track each and every cylinder. Thanks to the tremendous accuracy and audit records of AcuTrax you are in total control of your assets.

Enhance Customer Relations

Customer relations improve dramatically with AcuTrax. Your customers perceive your company as one that is technologically advanced and providing the highest level of service and accuracy. People like doing business with companies that are progressive and service minded. You can tell your customer that if he ever loses a cylinder and it is turned in by someone else, even years later, you will be able to credit it to his account. AcuTrax will give you a competitive edge as your customers easily perceive the higher level of concern you have for them through your use of technology. Your customer relations will be enhanced by the high degree of accuracy in cylinder tracking as a result of AcuTrax. AcuTrax virtually eliminates customer versus distributor contention over "negative" activities, such as lost cylinders and accuracy of cylinder balances. Years of excellent customer service can be easily marred by just one negative experience. Customers expect good service to be the norm. A negative experience is not easily forgotten.

Because AcuTrax assigns a unique "ID" to each cylinder and the customer receives a detailed, signed receipt there is no question anymore as to whether or not a cylinder was actually shipped or returned. AcuTrax eliminates that gray area of doubt in the customer's mind.

Offer Powerful Marketing Tools

AcuTrax places your company in a position to offer DataWeld's unique S.N.A.P program to your customers. S.N.A.P., which stands for Serial Number Accounting Program, allows your customers to track the cylinders at their site with Radio Frequency Identification technology (RF/ID). This provides the highest level of control possible. S.N.A.P. is an excellent marketing tool use for large universities, hospitals, ship yards or industrial concerns who have high cylinder traffic and/or large volumes of cylinders.

With AcuTrax at the distributor level and S.N.A.P. at the customer site cylinder tracking accuracy reaches a new level.

Improve Cylinder Management

If you send your cylinders to a gas supplier for filling, you often have an agreement with them that they must fill the cylinders and return them to you in a certain number of days. The actual turnaround time in many cases is much



longer. You lose the use of your cylinder for a longer time than anticipated. You may even be renting more cylinders from the supplier because of the slow turnaround. How do you know this is happening with your cylinders? You may not unless you have AcuTrax!

AcuTrax improves cylinder management by decreasing the turnaround time on your cylinders.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

At the heart of AcuTrax is the unique patented Trovan radio frequency transponder. The transponder is a tiny chip with an antennae in a casing approximately the size of an aspirin and contains a unique 10 digit alphanumeric number that is encoded during the manufacturing process. The transponder is read by the Trovan handheld computer with an integrated scanner. This technology offers a number of unique benefits over older or less appropriate technologies.

Permanency - The transponder can be placed on the cylinder in two different fashions. A 1/2" inch wide hole can be drilled in the neck ring of the cylinder. The transponder with a small amount of adhesive is inserted into the hole. This places the transponder flush with the surface of the cylinder neckring. Flush mounting in this manner provides a permanent, safe and secure home for the transponder.



A second method of attachment is to place the transponder in a special hardened plastic cap and adhere it to the exterior of the cylinder. A special two sided tape, used in aircraft manufacturing to bond metal and plastic components together, attaches the transponder to the cylinder. The protective cap has a beveled edge and will easily withstand harsh direct blows.

The transponder has no battery, but instead uses the energy sent from the Trovan Scanner to activate it and send back it's signal. With no moving parts or batteries to wear out, the Trovan transponder provides a permanent identification system for gas cylinders.



Ease of reading - No physical contact is needed between the scanner and the transponder. The transponder can be painted over, covered with ice, mud, cement dust or even the human hand and still be easily read by the Trovan Scanner! Bright sunlight or even high electromagnetic interference will not prevent a quick and accurate read of the transponder's unique I.D.

Accuracy - The Trovan transponder guarantees you unbelievable accuracy. When you pull the trigger on the Trovan Scanner to read the transponder's identification code, the Scanner actually continues to scan the

transponder until it has successfully read the identification code 8 consecutive times! Because the Scanner can send and receive signals all at the same time, the scanning and reading process is accomplished in a small fraction of a second. With Trovan's RF/ID you can be assured of total accuracy.

Durability - Extreme weather conditions will not harm the transponder. It has been dipped in liquid nitrogen and heated to over 360 degrees and will still read successfully! When you shot blast the cylinder with the transponder on it, the transponder emerges unharmed!

These patented performance features not only provide a better solution than other automatic identification technologies, but makes the Trovan system the most durable, easy to utilize and permanent method for tracking gas cylinders.



AcuTrax A Closed Loop System...

A closed loop cylinder tracking system is one that tracks every movement of the cylinder. The process begins when the cylinder is scanned after being filled with gas. Every time the cylinder is moved, the transponder is scanned. This occurs when the cylinder is filled, moved to the dock, shipped to a customer, returned to the dock and finally when shipped back to the filling location.

AcuTrax's superior tracking begins when the cylinder is tagged with the transponder. Once the cylinder is tagged with the transponder, the transponder number is scanned and the operator types in the serial number stamped into the cylinder. This assigns the unique transponder number to the cylinder serial number. The operator is required to enter the number two times to insure accuracy.

Cylinder movement transactions are captured as they occur in the field or on the dock and then downloaded to the host system or a pc at the end of each day. As the cylinders are scanned, the program constantly checks to make sure the transaction is logical.

If you are shipping a cylinder to a customer, AcuTrax makes sure you are scanning a full cylinder instead of an empty return. To eliminate duplicate entries a cylinder can only be successfully scanned one time. This type of extensive error checking insures a high degree of accuracy when using AcuTrax.

If an error such as trying to ship a returned empty cylinder is detected by the portable computer, 5 audible beeps are emitted from the computer. This audible alarm alerts the driver or dock person that an error exists. An error message is also displayed on the screen of the portable computer.

When any scanning operation is completed successfully, 3 audible beeps are sounded. The audible interaction with the portable computer allows the driver or dock person to operate by sound instead of having to continually look at the display screen on the portable computer.

When the transactions are electronically downloaded to the computer, which only takes minutes, the error checking continues. A complete edit listing is generated by the

computer system. Cylinders returned from the wrong customer are flagged. Transactions that don't balance with the order are noted. No further processing is allowed until all errors have been corrected.

An easy to use Cylinder Serial Number Inquiry can be accessed to locate any cylinder. Cylinders can be located by any of the following scan methods: Serial Number, Transponder Number, Customer Name, Customer Number or Cylinder Type. The inquiry will quickly show the last customer who had or has the cylinder, when it was shipped and the status of the cylinder. The status might be Customer Site, Being Filled, On the Dock Empty or On the Dock Full. Questions as to the location or status of a cylinder can be answered in seconds with AcuTrax.

As an added measure, audit receipts are provided to each customer at time of delivery. The point of delivery could be from your truck or off of your dock. The printed receipt shows all critical information concerning the transactions including the number of each cylinder.

AcuTrax is the cylinder tracking system that takes you into the future. Combining state of the art cylinder tracking software with Trovan's transponder offers benefits not found in any other cylinder tracking system. Superior asset protection, enhanced customer service, powerful marketing tools and improved cylinder management are just a few of the benefits you will realize when you install AcuTrax.