

## **Toyota sees safety and savings in Camry plant**

### **Maintenance and paperwork reductions add to benefits**

*By Marisa Torrieri*

March 04, 2005—GEORGETOWN, Ky.—When the fleet you manage runs on an indoor landscape spanning 220 acres, it's hard to keep track of who's running what equipment. And if you have contractors from other companies working on the weekends, you might have no way of guaranteeing they have the OSHA-approved training required to operate your vehicles.

These were burning concerns two years ago at Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Georgetown, Ky., says Rick Noe, the group leader in forklift maintenance of the plant that builds the Camry and other models. Should these drivers get into a serious accident, Toyota could be slapped with an OSHA citation or worse, Noe says, adding that it was not unusual to see the entire carriage torn off a forklift, and have no idea who was responsible. Over the last year such headaches have lessened significantly since Noe contracted with Hackensack, N.J.-based I.D. Systems to install an RFID system for that facility. Now, with a badge reader on the equipment, "if they're not trained they can't operate it," says Noe.

Since implementing the RFID system (so far 440 pieces of equipment are tagged), Toyota Georgetown has cut its fleet of 580 forklifts and tuggers (including 38 rentals) by 16. The immediate benefit is eliminating the cost of preventive maintenance that goes with ownership (the most basic 200-hour check starts at \$70), as well as insurance and replacement costs. The 200 hour mark is no longer figured by how many hours the plant is open, rather, it's now based on the exact number of hours the lifts are used.

"This frees maintenance workers to focus on high-use equipment, so resources are applied better," says Gregory B. Smith, I.D. Systems' director of corporate communications.

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