

An automated container and truck identification system offered by International Terminal Solutions of UK has made a major impact at APM Terminals (APMT), Algeciras.

In use for a couple of years, the ITS Automated Truck ID system was developed on the premise that while the target is to achieve ship discharge with "the next operation in mind", making sure that it happened is another matter.

APMT had already installed the ITS Position Determination System by which it could identify when containers were not placed in the planned location but a pre-empt system was required to ensure that "actual" containers were automatically identified and "positively" placed in the correct yard locations.

When a truck approaches the handling equipment, it sends a signal to identify itself. The system identifies if it is the front or rear chassis position that is being handled and from the database determines which containers are being carried by which truck and in which position.

Using this information the actual move for that container is displayed to the handling equipment operator. If the operator attempts to continue with an "incorrect" move, the twistlocks lock to prevent the move being executed.

ITS MD Richard Lambert tells CS: "Fifteen years ago ITS implemented Position Determination and automated gantry steering systems and, as TOS and back office processing has developed, the thirst for automated data direct from the operation has mushroomed."

Lambert says that, in addition to the truck ID system, ITS has developed a host of additional modules that help to provide real-time operational data and reduce human processing. ■