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Deluxe Freight Systems Finds 70,000 Reasons To Buy A Freighter

In a challenging market where transport companies are seeking to gain every possible advantage in both efficiency and safety, Freighter's patented Load Hold curtain trailer has proven that it is the preferred choice for operators requiring side load restraint for common loads whilst eliminating the need for conventional gates.

Just as importantly, the Drop Deck Load Hold trailer built for Deluxe Freight Systems, recently on display at the Queensland Truck and Machinery Show, represented an important milestone in Australia's transport industry; the manufacture of Freighter's 70,000th trailer!

And like all the trailers that have come off the production line before it, it has been designed to perfectly complement the varying requirements of Deluxe Freight, who are now based in their new premises in Richlands, Queensland.

The company, which this year is celebrating 25 years of operations, chose Freighter's Load Hold because of the wide range of operational and OH&S benefits that the trailer will provide, for both their business and customers.

Because the load restraint system within Load Hold is actually built into the curtains, it provides sideways load restraint through the use of ultra high-strength composite pultrusions teamed with reliable Freighter buckles and double-thickness straps. The advantages that Deluxe Freight will experience include:

- Faster load/unload cycles (up to 10-15 minutes saved), potentially providing more drops per day along multiple drop routes and enhancing the driver's time management.
- Increased payload due to reduced tare weight.
- Reduced risk of injury and strains generally associated with lifting and using gates.
- Eliminated concern regarding gate damage or loss.

Further enhancing its appeal to Deluxe and other potential operators, is the fact that the Freighter Load Hold is certified to meet the NTC "Sideway" Load Restraint Guidelines for a unitised load of 1,400kg per pallet space on the upper deck and 1,250kg on the lower deck.

More importantly, for lower height loads, Freighter Load Hold provides operators with added versatility to carry up to 2.0 tonnes per pallet space with approval from Freighter Engineering.

Available on straight deck and drop deck T-Liner models, Load Hold can be matched with existing customer fleet specifications and suits many common load types.

The inclusion of mezzanine decks on the Drop Deck unit provides additional benefits for Deluxe Freight whose customers' requirements can vary quite frequently. The mezzanine decks allow the trailer to operate at maximum pallet capacity on one route with the flexibility for the decks to be dropped and heavier or taller pallets carried on the return trip, thus further enhancing the efficiency level of this one trailer.

With the mezzanine decks, an opportunity also arose to allow greater load access to the trailer and decks. Consequently, an innovative sliding mezzanine deck support post has also been included to provide the maximum aperture for loading.

Company director for Deluxe Freight Systems, Craig Luxton, acknowledges that the new Load Hold Drop Deck trailer will complement the existing Freighter Drop Deck T-Liner with mezzanine decks that Deluxe currently operates adding that, *"This combination will provide ongoing flexibility to carry a variety of loads ranging from aluminium material through to general palletised freight. It also reduces the OH&S risks with drivers no longer having to handle heavy removable gates, so it's a win/win situation for both our fleet and our customers."*

Freighter has also been pro-active in communicating the functionality of Load Hold to other parties who may come in contact with the technology, including the various road traffic enforcement authorities around Australia who have embraced the technology and look forward to working with operators to ensure guidelines are being met.

During its display at the Queensland Truck and Machinery Show, Freighter was fortunate to have one of its past and longest serving engineers, Ken Baldock, drop by the stand to say "G'day" and catch up with both old and new colleagues and compare the techniques used to build trailers from the sixties to present day.

Ken, who served as Director of Engineering at Freighter in a career that spanned over forty years, remains a "walking encyclopedia" on everything trailers and certainly everyone who had the chance to chat about the old days at the factory were impressed with his knowledge and tales of manufacturing from days gone by.

The manufacture of its 70,000th trailer demonstrates Freighter's ongoing success in working with large transport fleets and owner operators to build trailers that are perfectly suited to any application. From humble beginnings in 1946, Freighter has continually pushed the boundaries of trailer design and innovation to build transport solutions that increase the operator's bottom line, enhance productivity and durability, and improve driver convenience and safety.

Freighter was part of the move from strap trailers to deep chassis trailers, bogies, tri-axles and B-Doubles. The original Freighter T-Liner made curtain sided trailers readily available to the general market. With their increasing popularity, Freighter's patented Load Hold curtain and EziLiner innovations are setting new standards in trailer evolution and design in Australia.

General Manager for Freighter, Rod Cunningham, is excited by the future, commenting that *"We're incredibly proud to illustrate our history and evolution of our trailer models, but just as importantly, we use our history to focus on the future and ensure our market-leading technology continues to be developed for the betterment of our customers and the transport industry as a whole."*

Deluxe Freight Systems' 25 years operation comes after the business was started by Daryl and Lyla Luxton with one truck carrying air-conditioning ducting between Queensland and New South Wales. Deluxe Freight Systems has grown to now include a fleet consisting of over 55 powered vehicles (incorporating utility vehicles, rigid vans and other trucks) and over 50 trailers, consisting of curtain-sided T-Liners, B-Doubles and skels.

Now owned and operated by their son Craig, Deluxe Freight provides customers with a complete package of transport solutions and services including in-house logistics management and off-site warehousing.

Deluxe Freight's new Load Hold Drop Deck trailer exemplifies Freighter's commitment to continuously improving its products. And with Freighter's expert national dealer network of highly skilled sales and service professionals, operators such as Deluxe are assured that they will receive the appropriate support wherever and whenever needed.

Images overleaf ->



*ABOVE LEFT: 70,000 plus 25 reasons for a celebration!
ABOVE RIGHT: Former Director of Engineering, Ken Baldock, caught up with Freightler during the Queensland Truck and Machinery Show.*

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