

Leading New Zealand logistics provider boosts pallet dimensioning rates and staff productivity with Leopard Cube

“Since we’ve rolled out Leopard Cube, some of our branches are remeasuring 20% of their pallets per week! Our speed of remeasuring pallets has improved too. At one branch, we’ve increased our daily remeasuring activity by four-fold with Leopard Cube!”

***Business Improvement Analyst,
National NZ Logistics Provider***

The Challenge

With over 20 freight distribution branches nationwide and four major depots processing palletised freight, this national NZ logistics provider knows freight dimensioning challenges better than most. At four of their busiest sites, freight is cubed using large-scale, fixed-in-place dimensioning machines.

However, capturing cubic data using these big machines is labour-intensive. A forklift operator picks up the pallet, drives it to the remeasuring point, puts it on the machine, alights the forklift to punch in the consignment number, scans the pallet, and then manoeuvres the freight back to its original position.

Generally, these operations have finite resources and seek innovative ways to improve productivity. For this reason, they decided to roll out a handheld cubing device solution several years ago to enhance the use of fixed machines.

“The process, although beneficial, wasn’t easy to use or understand, and there were manual steps the operator needed to do to integrate the data with our systems. Also, the product was being discontinued, so we needed to find a better solution,” - *Business Improvement Analyst, National NZ Logistics Provider.*

The Solution

After hearing about the success of a unique mobile cubing solution used in an Australian counterpart’s operations, this NZ company decided to trial the award-winning Leopard Cube solution by Leopard Systems across several depots.

“Initially, staff were pessimistic; however, they soon realised the Leopard Cube application was quick and easy to use – scan an item, capture three measurements, and take a photo. It’s a seamless process. Everything happens automatically in the background.”

Leopard Cube is both a cloud application and a robust measuring tape that transforms a conventional mobile scanning device into a digital certified-for-trade-measurement freight cubing solution. In this company’s case, they were pleased to discover that Leopard Cube functions on the rugged Zebra Technologies TC56/57x Android devices they already owned. Training could be kept to a minimum as their team members already knew how to operate them.

“The Leopard Cube tape itself is an extremely low-cost tool. That’s a massive instant cost-benefit right there.”

When you scan three pallet dimensions, the Leopard Cube software draws a diagram and audibly communicates each measurement to you. This makes it easy to keep track of processes and supports employees to work safely and effectively. Users can also take photos to capture proof of the freight in their network to make handling and resolving customer queries easier.

The Results

This national NZ logistics provider is now cubing more pallets faster using Leopard Cube. With a KPI to remeasure a percentage of their pallet volume at each branch, the cubing solution has increased the number of sites achieving this performance target.

“Since we’ve rolled out Leopard Cube, some of our branches are remeasuring 20 per cent of their pallets per week. Even during the slower winter period, amid staff absences due to illness and other constraints, our overall pallet remeasuring for the business has increased substantially. Our speed of remeasuring pallets has improved too. At one branch, we’ve increased our daily remeasuring activity four-fold with Leopard Cube!”

Alleviating the reliance on forklift resources (to move freight to and from the fixed dimensioning machines), Leopard Cube’s handheld portability and user-friendly application have reduced costs and improved staff productivity and safety. Also, the web portal provides management with live visibility of cubing activities on the floor for operational intelligence.

“In addition to our team members wearing the required high-vis vests and hardhats, we put brightly coloured safety flags at the ends of the rows where someone is remeasuring with Leopard Cube, so the rest of the team on the floor can see where they are and work safely.”

Leopard Cube issues automated reports to the branch managers of the previous day’s results to ensure reliable reporting and offer business insights. Plus, data captured by Leopard Cube automatically feeds into the company’s transport management system, which updates consignment information with accurate dimensions.

Furthermore, Leopard Cube assists this national logistics provider in identifying problematic freight with incorrect dimensional weights upon which the company can support clients to supply the correct freight measurements in the future.

“Now we can produce real pictures and accurate dimensions of a client’s pallet moving through our network, so we can efficiently help our customers understand the situation, and they can work with us to rectify any discrepancies.”

This national logistics provider appreciated the extra mile Leopard Systems went to get this project up and running and address the technical aspects.

“Leopard Systems have been fantastic to work with, and we’re looking forward to what’s next. They have new features released that include ring scanner technology and automated freight dimensioning that incorporate the latest mobile devices, so I’m eager to see how it works with Leopard Cube. Exciting things are coming our way, and we’re keen to see what the future holds for the products Leopard will be rolling out.”

About Leopard Systems

Well regarded within transport and logistics, supply chain, and postal sectors, Leopard Systems leads the way in configurable and scalable freight management and delivery solutions encompassing software, hardware and services. Available as pre-configured, enterprise-grade mobility solutions, they increase efficiencies, reduce input error, elevate productivity and, of course, increase the bottom line.

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