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## **Freighter Proves It's What Operators and Drivers Want!**

Transport companies large and small continue to experience pretty tough operating conditions thanks to the global financial crisis and its effect on Australia's economy. Contracts are hard fought, operating costs high, hours long and rates low - it's not easy out there!

While many of these challenges are beyond the control of operators and equipment suppliers, their detrimental effects can be reduced or overcome by specifying and using the right equipment for the job.

Understanding these challenges for operators, Freighter developed two market leading solutions in the form of the award-winning and globally patented EziLiner and the patented Load Hold to help its customers match equipment to suit their needs and enhance the performance of their route service, intrastate and long haul operations.

Being able to adapt the EziLiner or Load Hold technology to suit most applications, Freighter has asserted its position in the market as the leading provider of innovative and importantly, user-friendly freight solutions so that every operator can experience the benefits of increased operational efficiency, improved occupational health and safety and even greater driver satisfaction.

The EziLiner in particular, was developed in response to customer requests that there just had to be an easier and quicker way to tension curtains without the use of buckles and straps.

General Manager for Freighter, Rod Cunningham, explains that *"Following close consultation with some of our key customers, the EziLiner concept came about by an objective to replace the use of buckles and straps with a system that was simpler to operate and quicker to release and tighten, thereby providing significant time reduction during load and unload cycles."*

Since its inception, the EziLiner has been embraced by numerous transport fleets and operators, including Paul Long from Crawford's Freightlines who commented that one

of the biggest benefits of the EziLiner to their company was the enthusiasm that drivers had for the ease of use of the technology and the time savings it provided.

Drivers have reported time savings of between ten and fifteen minutes per load drop, thus providing their logistics service a competitive edge, especially at loading docks where the ability to quickly and efficiently unload/load goods is highly valued by customers that have warehouses loading docks that are in constant use.

In addition, where delivery routes involve four or more multiple drops, having an additional hour to spare because of the time savings of the EziLiner allows drivers to undertake an additional drop as well as manage their schedule even better.

*"The subsequent benefit that we are seeing in the field now is that the EziLiner has given operators and their drivers the flexibility and freedom to further enhance their delivery service and more easily meet their prescribed driving hours"* Rod confirmed.

Not only has the EziLiner made the driver's task easier, it has provided improved OH&S benefits with drivers no longer exposed to the repetitive nature of opening and closing buckles and straps.

All that is required to achieve vertical curtain tension in the EziLiner is a simple flick of a lever to tighten the high tensile cable that runs through a series of specially designed arcs at the bottom of the curtain.

From a marketing perspective, the removal of buckles and straps provides the ideal canvas for imaged curtains and brand promotion, thus improving the effectiveness of these moving billboards.

Freighter's patented Load Hold is a major advance in trailer load restraint systems. For most common types of loads, Load Hold eliminates the need for conventional gates as the load restraint system has been built into the curtains.

Certified to meet the National Transport Commission (NTC) Load Restraint Guidelines, Load Hold provides sideways load restraint for unitised loads up to 1,400kg per pallet space with even higher approved load levels possible on a case by case basis with certification by Freighter Engineering.

Developed through the innovative use of composite technology and supported at the top and bottom by Freighter's heavy duty curtain track and coaming rail, extra high

strength fibreglass pultrusions run within the curtain and are huck-bolted to conventional curtain buckles. Shorter, double strength tensioning straps are utilised for added load restraint, durability and performance.

Operating in the same manner as a conventional T-Liner, Load Hold appeals to virtually all fleet sizes and will suit most route types including local distribution, intrastate and line haul.

Thanks to it overcoming the need for gates in most cases, Freighter's Load Hold provides many advantages including faster load/unload cycle times, increased payload due to reduced tare weight and most obviously, no gates to get damaged, lost or left behind! And drivers don't have the unpleasant task of manhandling gates.

The exclusive Freighter EziLiner and Load Hold are now so popular that they make up a large percentage of Freighter's production – proof that customers have recognised their benefits and are voting with their feet to buy these innovative models.

These two unique models demonstrate the understanding that Freighter's experienced dealers and engineers have for the market and highlight Freighter's ability to meet market needs even in these challenging times.

This is exemplified though companies such as Visy and Crawford's Freightlines, both whom share a common goal to deliver logistics service excellence using B-Double equipment, however their specification requirements were quite different and through the incorporation of Freighter's EziLiner and Load Hold technology, each company was able to enhance their operational efficiency.

Reinforcing Freighter's ongoing commitment to its customers is its strong network of strategically located dealers across Australia providing personalised and dedicated expert support in sales, service and parts back up.

Rod commented that, *"The adaptation of Freighter's EziLiner and Load Hold technology into a range of trailer solutions to meet a large variety of customer requirements demonstrates our desire to service the needs of all our clients, regardless of industry or product type, and provide solutions that not only deliver improved efficiencies, but also enhance the life of a driver and make logistic operations much easier."*

Freighter and its dealers can assist both large fleets and owner operators to develop transport solution that will increase their efficiency and withstand Australia's unique operating conditions. Further information is available at [www.freighter.com.au](http://www.freighter.com.au).



*Above: Both Visy and Crawfords have adapted Freighter technology to enhance their logistic delivery service.*

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