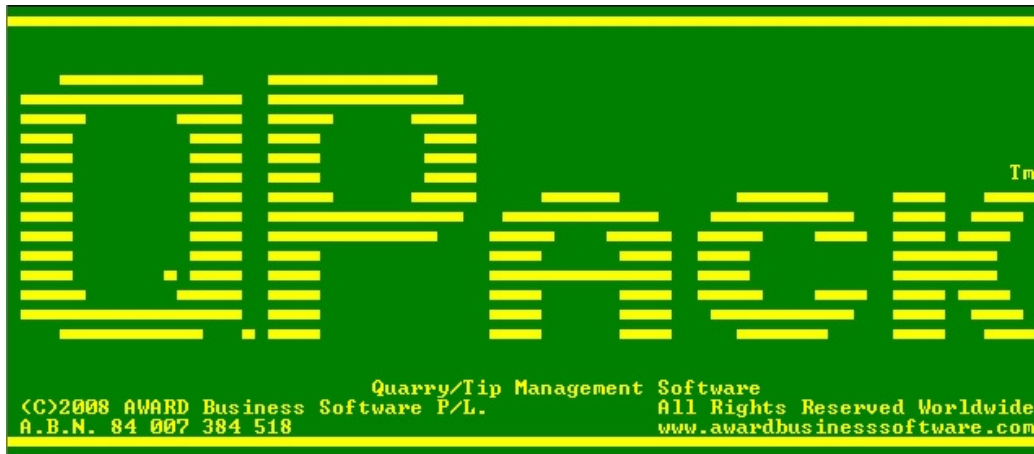


Award

Business Software P/L

A.C.N. 007 384 518



Qpack - “The business tool for rapid collection of business data and integration into key business processes”

“Another AWARD Industrial Strength Application”

Qpack System Features

Overview

The Qpack system is a software package specifically designed for industrial applications, including interfacing to Weighbridges and other industrial devices. Since the original QPack systems in 1990, Qpack has continued through an upgrade and evolution path, being refined, as customers needs and technology has changed during this period. The most important aspect of Qpack is its ability to process transactions quickly with a minimum number of keystrokes by an operator.

As AWARD Business Software specialises in these industrial applications, we understand the importance of fast transaction handling, reporting requirements, management auditing and other critical aspects of the industry. The package has

been written for ease and speed of use, especially as many of the site operators of the system have no formal computer skills. The application can be setup for head office use, and management of many sites, consolidating into one central accounting package. Transfers of data can be performed with standard communication facilities.

The program runs under Windows Vista, Windows XP, Windows 2000 and Windows 9.x environments. The program has been upgraded for GST and performs the mandatory requirements as stated by the ATO.

The program will allow basic multi-user operation only, allowing staff to work on different portions of the application concurrently. The program has been run on many of the standard Networks including Windows, Novell etc.

AWARD has a number of specific industrial applications. In addition to Qpack there are other specific applications focused on other aspects of the Quarry/Weighbridge/Concrete styles of business.

The following list of features gives a brief insight into the facilities of the program, but is by no means complete, as the Qpack software is capable of a wide range of configurations and specific functions.

Conformance to Industry Accepted best practices

The system is built upon the need for processing business data in the most effective manner. From Initial order entry to the production of delivery docket, invoices and truck remittances, through to the integration of the data with standard general ledgers.

From the collection of transactional information through to the management of Customers in coordination with your financial system, Qpack handles the most significant aspect of your business. The effective daily capture of transactions rapidly by operators allows all aspects of the data to then be used for reporting and further use within your business. Extremely efficient and practical for customers, admin staff, plant staff, and sub-contractors.

Modifications / Customisations

Whilst we use a standard product, we are able to customise the application to your specific needs. This usually includes items such as delivery docket layouts, invoice layouts, interfaces and also other specific business practices that are used within your organization.

Head Office / Site Operations

Qpack and other AWARD applications use standard industry accepted methods for data communications. There are a variety of options for managing and downloading site data. Depending upon your communications infrastructure and which AWARD application you use, the application will run across a WAN/Internet using Citrix.

Delivery Dockets

The entry of a delivery docket prepares all of the information necessary to produce customer invoices and truck remittances. Delivery docket entry also updates product quantities, quantity supplied on the order, customer and product sales analysis. Deliveries may be made outwards, or for tip/waste type products, may be made inwards. Products are recorded as either M3 (Cubic metre) or TONNES . All of the information relevant to the delivery is recorded with the delivery docket to ensure data integrity. This also allows for later amendment of the docket to correct any errors, change of pricing etc.

Invoicing (Integration with Customers/General Ledger)

When a final invoice run is selected, debtor's balances and transaction details are automatically updated. Copy invoices can be printed as required, wither singularly or for an entered range. When completing a final invoice run, the software can be configured to produce an export file, for later importing into a general ledger. This means that the Qpack system can manage the transactions whilst the general ledger/Customers package manages the finances. The best of both worlds. All of the docket details and invoices are in Qpack, designed to handle large volumes of transactions. The financial package, manages Customers and has only summary financial information on the invoices. Thus statements and all financial transactions such as receipting, credits journals etc can be performed in the financial package. Each application performing a key role in the business processes of the business. Each application is performing the role that makes the best use of the functionality, performance, training etc. For support financial systems no more re-keying of docket information. Once initially captured when the docket is produced, this data flows through to the invoice, then your financial package.

Truck Remittances

The Qpack system prints truck remittances with a complete summary of all jobs delivered which may include different rates for different jobs. The truck owner may be paid as either, a percentage of the customer charge, a rate per kilometre per TONNE/M3, or a fixed rate per TONNE/KM allowing plenty of flexibility between what might be chargeable to a customer and what might be payable to the carrier. A contract type rate can be set for any given order allowing all deliveries on that order to be paid at the negotiated rate.

Cartage Tables/Distance Charts

Cartage tables can be established for different types of vehicles and load structures. The Cartage table, which is essentially a provision for flagfall and rate per tonne per kilometre over various scales, takes into consideration the distance to the job, and if necessary any minimum cartage or product price. The distance chart allows the program to be linked to a Melways/UBD directory reference and a pre-set distance and charge recalled for a particular job. It is possible to purchase a full streets index

from the directory companies (as has been done in Melbourne for Melways) and by knowing a street and suburb, a range of pricing can be immediately displayed. This feature requires the purchasing of data from Melways/UBD.

Minimum Product/Cartage Prices

Minimum prices can be entered for both products and cartage. If a price is below the preset minimum then automatically, the minimum price will be applied.

Configurable Options

Many of the programs facilities can be turned on or off depending upon the customer's requirements. This allows the program to better suit the particular nature of the clients business.

Help On-Line Context Sensitive

On-line help can be obtained just by pressing one key, at almost all stages of the program. This help is context sensitive so that relevant information to the task at hand will be displayed.

Search Window

One of the best time saving features of the Qpack system, allows an operator to activate a search window wherever a code entry is required. The search window displays a highlighted bar and allows the operator to move up or down to locate the particular record of interest. With the Qpack system you will always be able to easily find the specific record you are looking for.

Waste/Tip Inward Products

The system handles inward waste/tip type products as easily as outward delivered type products. The incoming waste products can be handled as either TONNES or M3 depending on the preferred unit of measure for the particular waste. Even truck remittances can be printed for incoming waste products.

Customer Credit Check (Available Credit)

With the program linked to the AWARD CUSTOMERS module, an "AVAILABLE CREDIT" window can be activated to show a particular customer's account situation. Credit limits can also be established as required and if a delivery is attempted for a customer that has exceeded their credit limit an audible and on screen warning alert the operator of the situation. If the program is not linked a STOP CREDIT facility may be used to prevent transactions with nominated Customers.

Orders/Jobs

Standing details as to customer jobs orders can be entered into the Qpack system and recalled automatically at the time of docket entry. The details recorded on an order include delivery address, inwards or outwards, Ex-Bin or not, distance and then details including products, pricing, cartage etc. If required, orders can have an overriding truck payment rate so that irrespective of what payment the truck owner would usually receive; on this particular job all truck owners receive the same 'Contract' rate. In addition, if there are some customers that orders are not required for then they can be setup not to have orders. This allows all other details to be entered at the time of producing a docket.

Products

Two styles of products are recorded by the Qpack system, standard Products and manufactured products. Manufactured products can have up to nine components or standard products. The system maintains complete sales analysis of all products allowing management to easily follow sales performance of standard products and raw materials

Trucks (Tare weight, manual or automatic/Tare Date)

Qpack allows you to record full truck details including Tare weight, Cubic Capacity, Truck Model, Body, and equipment recording and the standard truck cartrate. The date the Tare weight was recorded and the type (automatic from the weighbridge or manually entered) can be used to alert operators if a truck needs to be re-tared. When an operator enters the truck registration for a delivery docket, if the truck was manually tared previously or an entered period has elapsed, possibly 14 or 30 days then both an audible and screen message is conveyed to the operator suggesting the need for re-taring.

Cartage Charts

Cartage Charts can be displayed or printed showing both what the customer pays and what the trucks would be paid for any given distance, Cartage Table and Truck Cartrate.

Cartage Surcharging

The amount of cartage charged to a customer need not be paid in full to a transport contractor. Cartrate tables allow for the retention of a handling fee, or for truck payment on a different basis to customer charging. This allows the company using Qpack to make profit on cartage that they previously had no way of recording.

Sales Analysis

Sales analysis may be reported showing all of the products including quantities and prices that a particular customer has purchased over an entered period. Also included is a report showing for each product, every customer that purchased some including details of their quantity and pricing. You can then easily see which customers are buying which products, which can highlight areas that are going well, or may need attention.

Stockpile/Lot Number Stock Control

A new feature in the application is the ability to record and sell from designated lots (stockpiles). This allows dockets to be produced from certain lot numbers, giving the customer information on product quantity delivered from each stockpile.

Extra Charges

An Extra charge can be added to any delivery docket with a variety of calculations method possible, such as a per Load fee, a per kilometre per TONNE/M3, Waiting time or Sundry type charges etc can be easily handled.

Importing /Exporting Data

As data is stored in standard data files, many imports and exports have been written for moving data in/out of the Bpack application. Depending upon your specific requirements, an existing data transfer may be appropriate.

History files

Transactions can be transferred to history files so that information can be referenced as required. This also removes the older entries from the standard data files so that the system may operate as efficiently as possible and the amount of data to be backed up is substantially reduced.

Hardware Configurable

The Qpack software is Configurable for either mono or colour screens. Printer settings can be setup in the software to cope with different printers for reporting, dockets etc.

Weighbridge Integration

The Qpack system integrates to most standard weighbridges via the computers serial port. This allows automatic transferring of the gross weight from the weighbridge to the Qpack system without the need to re-enter any weights.

Security (Passwords)

Security within the Qpack system allows operators to be established with a security level. Each menu option can also have a security level entered, so if a particular operator is on a low security level the options that require a higher level will not even be displayed, let alone be permitted to run the option. An operator may then be set to a security level where they are able to print delivery dockets but not reports.

Date Validation

The system will validate all non-reporting dates entered to ensure that operators enter dates within a supervisor-defined range from the operating date (system date).

Supplier Deliveries (Products/Items)

Supplier deliveries of Products can be recorded by the system including any non-product type items such as fuel or anything that may need to be referenced in the future to be recorded as being received.

Reporting Range entry

All reporting allows a range to be entered so that reports are produced for the range and options you have selected. For convenience, and to save paper, all reports may be displayed on the screen or printed to a file.

Pricing Categories

Each customer has a pricing category, which reflects the standard price that the customer will be charged for a given product. This standard price can also be overridden if necessary. Contract Pricing for date range and products is also available for allowing 'special arrangements' to be recorded and then priced when dockets are produced.

Modified/Deleted Orders/Delivery Docket Recording

Any modified or deleted, delivery dockets and orders are stored for audit reporting. Any modifications show the docket or order BEFORE the change and then, AFTER the change so that management can oversee any dubious adjustments or deletions.

Calculator Pop-Up

From time to time you may want to do some simple calculations without using your own desktop calculator. A pop-up calculator is provided that can be called at any time with the result of the calculations transferred back to the program if needed, without re-keying.

Program Modifications Considered

Where appropriate, AWARD Business software will consider modifications to the program for particular client specialities. The process follows, a signed specification, quotation, user acceptance testing and sign off, and then implementation.

Standard Database Files

The system uses industry standard DBASE data files. This allows for the interchange of data with other standard desktop applications such as Microsoft Access or Microsoft Excel enabling users to perform additional analysis and user defined reporting on data from the system. No more re-keying of data for internal reports.

Installation Requirements

The Qpack system takes up approximately 3Mb of Hard disk space on initial installation. Depending on the number of Customers, delivery dockets per month, orders etc, will depend on the actual data size. As an example having approximately 1000 Customers and 1500 delivery dockets per month will require about 4Mb and 1Mb per month for stored data. As the Qpack system is capable of accruing data, the size of the history files can be as large as practical (disk space allowing). If a number of other applications are planned or currently being run allowing at least 100 Mb of available Hard disk space. Very minor storage requirements for an application in 2003.

The program requires some specific settings in the PC environment to operate correctly. It may be run under Windows 9.x, Windows 2000 or Windows XP. (All major Microsoft operating systems).

Licensing

The Qpack program is copyrighted and remains the property of Award Business Software Pty Ltd. A Company purchases a license to use the package. A license agreement must be signed. This entitles the client to use the package on a single PC or single site office. Use of the package at other sites and offices require an additional licence fee to be paid. The most common configuration of Qpack is one or more plants supported with a Head Office consolidation copy. This means that as your business grows the addition of another site is simply coordinated in your operations.

AWARD Products

AWARD has a number of industrial applications for use in a variety of conditions. All can be configured to operate with different functions, security etc. We have integrated and worked with the majority of Weighbridge companies and a number of other industrial manufacturers.

With technology progressing we believe that the focus always must be on business outcomes and efficiencies, not the latest and greatest piece of hardware or software. We have proven since 1990 that an appropriately designed application can give the business greater efficiencies with the focus on the customer and management analysis, rather than on infrastructure and systems.

AWARD References

We would be pleased to provide customer references for similar businesses. We stand by our product, our reputation and our commitment to offer excellent products and services to make a difference to your business.

And AWARD software is proudly



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With the high prevalence of spam email, please contact us via phone to ensure a rapid response.

AWARD Products General Infrastructure

Infrastructure
General Site Communications

