

# Salem store opens Truck Transponder Service Center

A Salem BATTERIES PLUS store has opened a Truck Transponder Service Center for refurbishing the Delco transponders that most truckers currently use for preclearance at Oregon Green Light weigh stations. The transponder has a unique lithium battery that is expected to last up to seven years. Since Oregon handed out many of these transponders five years ago, they're expected to start failing sometime in the next two years. When they fail, truckers will need to pay to refurbish or replace the transponders if they want to keep getting green light signals to bypass weigh stations.

According to Green Light Program Manager Randal Thomas, the Motor Carrier Transportation Division has been looking for a vendor who could help when the batteries start expiring. "This particular battery is only available to suppliers and it's not easy to install," Thomas said. "We've broken the casings on several transponders when we tried to open them. Also, the batteries need wires specially soldered to either end. The Salem BATTERIES PLUS store has stepped up with a business plan that offers an affordable solution to the problem," he said.

The Truck Transponder Service Center will stock batteries and install

new ones for less than \$15 per transponder. Truckers can mail transponders to the Service Center (3045 Lancaster Dr NE, Salem OR 97305)

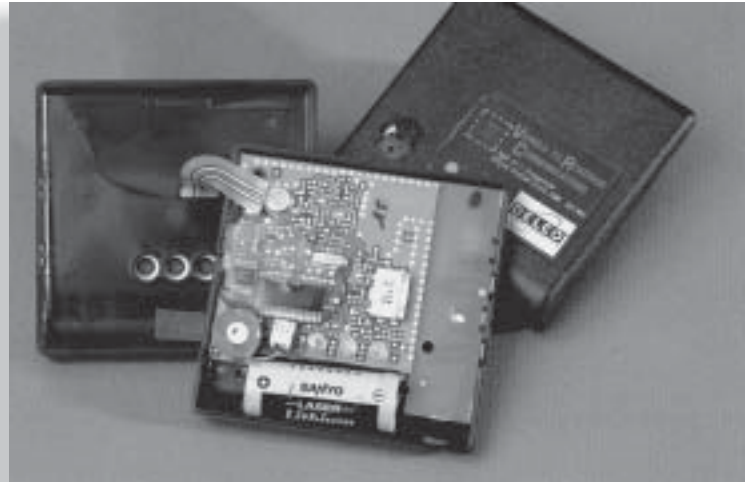
and get them back by return mail. The devices can then be used for about seven more years.

Thomas noted that companies cannot get a free replacement transponder for trucks currently enrolled in Green Light. "We're

giving companies the first transponders they need to get started," he said.

"Once a company has its transponders, it owns them and when the batteries die it is responsible for paying to either replace the batteries or buy new transponders."

In a recent survey of companies participating in Green Light, about one of every four said they wouldn't want to spend \$50 for a new transponder.



*The Delco Type II+ transponder circuitry runs on a Sanyo lithium battery. When the transponder stops working, it probably just needs a new battery. But it will only work with a Sanyo Model CR17450E-R battery. Now a Salem-based Truck Transponder Service Center is stocking the battery and offering to install them so the transponder can be used for 5-7 more years.*

But most of the companies (86%) said they would be interested in spending \$10 to \$15 to have a company replace the battery in each transponder.

Questions? Contact the Green Light office at 503-378-6054, or the Service Center at 503-581-4890.

## Three-millionth truck rolls past Green Light weigh station



*Oregon Green Light preclearance systems, like this one at the Woodburn Port of Entry on southbound Interstate 5, have allowed trucks to avoid stopping at weigh stations more than three million times since January 1999.*

The Green Light weigh station preclearance system passed another major milestone in May when it precleared its three-millionth truck. The milestone was passed on May 12 at 7:24 a.m. when a Sysco Food Services of Portland truck got a green light to keep on truckin' northbound past the Woodburn weigh station on Interstate 5.

Oregon opened the first Green Light weigh station in October 1997, but it didn't officially start keeping track of green lights until January 1999 when it had four weigh stations preclearing an average of 51 trucks a day. Now 21 stations have Green Light systems and they're preclearing 2,500 trucks a day. More than 24,000 trucks have Green Light transponders. In the past four years it's estimated that they've saved \$18.6 million in operating costs and 250,000 hours of travel time by avoiding unnecessary weigh station stops.