



Logistics Association of Australia Ltd

HOW ARE "BEST PRACTICE" DISTRIBUTION CENTRES DIFFERENT?

1995 WINNER: BILL GOBBE

The logistics function is increasingly becoming recognised by senior management as an integral and vital part of progressive business strategy.

Along with this increasing focus on logistics are the conflicting pressures of higher customer service demands and the drive to reduce costs particularly in service areas of business.

All these factors point to the need for logistics managers to be highly aware of and adaptable to the most advanced methods used by others.

This study award aims to assist the process in Australian industry by identifying and reporting on a select range of distribution centres considered "Best Practice" in systems and materials handling equipment configuration and management practices.

I have chosen a wide variety of warehousing and distribution sites from generic industries to broaden the range of LMA members likely to gain from the findings.

Companies have been chosen as potential sites on the following basis:

- Considered a "Best Practices" site
- Have advanced logistics systems
- Use quality management practices
- Leading edge in warehousing and distribution in their industry.

By attending the CLM conference, researching and visiting these sites, I will be looking for what makes these facilities stand out.

Why are they considered "Best Practice"? Is it one particular factor, a common combination or use of strategy driven by specific industry needs?

What level of success have they had in quality, benchmarking, process re-engineering, outsourcing, self managing teams?

What reliance is placed on computer systems and how do they fit in with materials handling equipment?

I aim to report back on the practical application of these issues on my return from the USA and UK in November.

Please contact me if there are any particular issues you would like me to observe and report on.

I can be reached on 02 9937 3119 or fax 02 878 0415.