

BLUEPRINT

The Official Newsletter of Langdon Group Ltd

Issue No. 11

Nagel Integrate UK Operations



Before the acquisition of Langdons in 2004, Nagel Group's only subsidiary in the UK was Nagel Logistics UK Ltd (NLUK). Following a strategic review it has been decided to run all the UK domestic activities under the Langdons management.

Consequently all the UK based customers, Nagel warehousing operations in Dover and Redditch and some associated staff, vehicles and equipment will pass over to Langdons on February 1st 2006. Langdons are pleased to announce that Danny Pye has been appointed as Depot Manager at Dover.

NLUK will remain as a trading company under the leadership of director Michael Schymik but will be focussed exclusively on International controlled temperature movements in and out of the UK.

A major benefit of this will be the inclusion of Dover depot in the Mandata Manpack3 operating system. This transport management system has been a key platform for growth in CHILLNET and it is hoped that this will have a similar effect at Dover.



*Danny Pye
(Depot Manager)*



Gerber Build Chill Store at Express Park

Gerber Foods Soft Drinks Ltd are building a brand new factory at Express Park, just north of Bridgwater on the A38. They have taken an additional plot alongside the factory and the developers are now constructing a purpose built store for chilled juices. Whilst under development, this is known in Gerber as "Project Peach".

This huge building will eventually have storage capacity for 12,000 to 15,000 pallets, which is more than twice the space available currently at Langdons Bridgwater. Eventually chilled production will move from the existing Wembdon Rd factory and will be connected directly with the new chill store.

Langdons are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a five year contract to manage this facility. This means that all staff currently employed on the Gerber and Sunny Delight work will be invited to transfer to Peach in the Autumn of 2006. Langdons will also continue transport operations on behalf of Gerber.

Once the transfer to Peach is completed and settled down, the South-West Chillnet hub will move to Bridgwater and the Walford Cross site will be sold. It is likely that the freezer at Bridgwater will need to be extended to cater for the additional stock and frozen pallet throughput requirements.

Cool Country stock will take some of the vacant chilled space at Bridgwater but that will still leave a large capacity for which we are hoping to find new business.

York House (Meat Products) Ltd First To Trial Advanced Services !

York House Meat Products of Potton, Bedfordshire, have been a valued customer of Langdons for over twelve months and were the first customer to trial our on-line order processing via the internet.

Established for over twenty years, they have been supplying the food industry with quality cooked meats, sausages and bacon, servicing wholesale and food manufacturing companies nationwide.

Their supply chain is managed by logistics manager, Clive Pattle and their sales & orders are collated by Sue Jacks.

Clive runs his own small fleet of vehicles but he recognised that longer distance, small volume pallet distribution was the most problematical and so he called on Langdons after a recommendation from an associate. Since then, Clive has 'Championed' Langdons and the benefits they have gained from booking their consignments 'on-line' via our web site. Instant, visible order confirmation, consignment tracking and a host of support services has enabled them to integrate our advanced services into their business. They are able to run management

reports, pallet labels, delivery notes, and early in the New Year they will have access to all their POD's stored on our Scan File.

We thank Sue and Clive for their help and support and look forward to working with them in the future on additional features planned for this web based service.

Chris Davies



*Clive Pattle and Sue Jekes
in their office*

The Importance of Health & Safety

Introduction

It has been said that some people believe health and safety is important – others think it is a necessary evil.

The truth is of course that health and safety is important – after all, people don't come to work to be injured, but in the UK in 2004/05 a staggering 220 workers were killed whilst at work, and this figure does not include those who were fatally injured as a result of work-related road traffic accidents. This figure is mitigated only by the fact that it is lower than the previous year, when there were 235 fatalities at work.

The cost of injuries and compensation to business is also astronomical with 35 million working days lost in the UK through ill-health and injury at work. The total cost to individuals, employers and society in the UK is estimated by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) to be more than £55 billion last year. So clearly there is a very strong case for recognising the importance of health and safety and for managing it successfully, in the same way as other core activities are managed.

It is equally important to keep a sense of proportion when dealing with health and safety issues. It is not a perfect world, although some people believe that it should be – they think that all hazard and risk should be removed from every activity. Of course this is not usually possible, so managing health and safety successfully is about reducing risks to an acceptable or tolerable level. The following extract from the HSE confirms their view:

“Sensible Health and Safety

If you believe some stories you hear, health and safety is all about stopping any activity that might possibly lead to harm. This is not our vision of sensible health and safety. Our approach is to seek a balance between the unachievable aim of absolute safety and the kind of poor management of risks that damages lives and the economy.

In a nutshell - risk management, not risk elimination”

Managing health and safety is the same as managing any other part of a business or organisation – whether it's costs, quality or output. But people who are responsible for managing health and safety as part of their job need to be trained to do so; organisations also need to plan the way they intend to control and manage their health and safety responsibilities.

Health & Safety at Langdons

At Langdons we are working to improve our performance when it comes to managing health and safety. A health and safety plan has been established and one of the first steps is to provide health and safety training for a wide range of employees.

We embarked on a training programme for all managers and supervisors when a group of 10 attended the first of several 'Managing Safely' courses in October 2005 – this is an intensive

Ken Bilsborough CMIOSH RSP Health & Safety Manager

Langdon Industries Limited



four-day examined course with successful delegates being awarded the prestigious 'Managing Safely' Certificate. Directors and Senior Executives have not been forgotten though – they too have had a short course on their health and safety responsibilities. There are also plans to provide training for other employees on other H&S topics such as accident causation and prevention, so that they can become much more involved in accident investigation.

So, what can we expect to see when Langdons is achieving its objective of improving its management of health and safety?

An organisation which is successful in managing health and safety will usually have a formal safety management system in place which, when fully implemented, will produce:

- A positive health & safety culture with significant risks assessed and under control;
- Accident/incidents properly investigated, recorded and reported, and accident and ill-health rates reducing; financial losses that arise from accidents are minimised;
- Recognition that accidents, ill-health and incidents often arise from failings in management control and are not necessarily the fault of individuals;
- Visible, sincere commitment from senior management and supervision with a good level of compliance with legal requirements;
- Regular measurement, auditing and review of H&S performance;
- Effective consultation procedures with employees at all levels believing the organisation takes H&S seriously; and
- Clear evidence that Langdons manages health & safety with the same degree of expertise and to the same standard as other core activities

These then are our objectives for managing safety at Langdons but, of course, it doesn't stop there! Providing a safe place of work with all the benefits that affords for both employer and employee is a never-ending process, so the final, recurring piece of the plan is an obvious culture of **continuous improvement**.

If you have any health and safety issues about which you are concerned, please raise them in the first instance with your line manager. If you need further advice please contact the Health and Safety Department at Walford Cross, Taunton.

Staff Spotlight

Trevor Horton

For this issue our spotlight falls on Langdons longest serving employee. Apart from a brief break of service back in the 1960's Trevor has worked for the firm for an incredible 42 years !

Born in 1948, Trevor grew up on a farm near Wiveliscombe, West Somerset with his seven brothers and five sisters. Trevor was working in agriculture from a young age and was always very interested in the farm machinery. He went on to work for his father's firm which repaired and maintained tractors etc and from there, at the age of fifteen, he joined Langdons as an engineering apprentice in what was then the Wiveliscombe workshop.

In those days, the workshops did everything on the trucks as almost no work was contracted out. Stripping and re-building engines and gearboxes, paint spraying vehicles and repairing or replacing almost every moving part was everyday life in the workshop.

At the age of 29 years, Trevor became Workshop Manager – the position he still holds today. He was heavily involved in the move to the Walford Cross, Taunton site in 1981 where (apart from 2.5 years in temporary premises at Chip Lane, Taunton) the workshop was based until it moved into brand new premises at Bridgwater in 1999.



*Long-serving employee
Trevor Horton*

Trevor has witnessed many changes in his time including the change from mechanical to air suspension, the widespread use of electronics in the trucks and huge improvements in refrigeration technology. It might still be called engineering, but he says there is no comparison between the job in the 1960's and how it is today and by and large he welcomes the changes.

Trevor has been married to Brenda for 39 years and they have a grown up son called Dean. They still live near Wiveliscombe where they have a smallholding. Trevor breeds pedigree cattle specialising in the Charolais and Limousin breeds. He also travels all over the West Country with his horse drawn wedding carriage service at weekends, which he drives himself. If there is any time left after all that, he is a keen rugby fan and often travels to international matches.

Trevor has recently had a serious operation but is making a very good recovery. We wish him good health and many more years at Langdons to add to his already impressive record.

It was with great regret and sadness that we learnt of the tragic death of **Andre Tarr** in a fatal road accident in France in December.

Andre had worked for the Company for 10 years and had become one of the Company's well known characters.

Andre leaves a wife, Marion, and 3 children, Christopher, Daran and Rebecca and our sympathy goes out to them at this very sad time.

Your Ideas ?

Remember, this is **YOUR** newsletter, it is not a management memo, although we hope you find it informative. If you work for Langdons and have some news you would like other people to know about, or if you have an idea for an article for inclusion in the next edition then please contact Rob Swindells at Walford Cross. Anything fit to print will be considered.