TACHOGRAPHS HELP DRIVERS TO BE MORE EFFICIENT

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ABSTRACT

At Simunye Sugar Estates, sugarcane is hauled 24 h each day, using three drivers per tractor (i.e. 8 h shifts). Each of the 16 tractors is equipped with a tachograph which provides a continuous record of engine activity. A trained tachograph analyst uses the record to monitor each driver's performance each day, with special reference to:

- Productive vs. idle time.
- Driving performance, e.g., over-revving, bad gear changes, harsh braking.
- Overall efficiency of the vehicle's use for his shift.

Helping the drivers to be aware of, and how to correct, faults.

A tachograph makes the driver alert all the time, because he knows that he is being watched by this instrument and that everything he does on the tractor is recorded on the chart. This has also reduced the strain on our supervisors. In case of vehicle abuse, the supervisor does not have to argue with drivers in trying to determine the cause of the abuse or which driver of the three has caused the damage. He gets all that information from the tacho chart. Simunye has seen a lot of improvement in vehicle handling by our drivers since the inception of tachographs. The drivers have also benefitted from having their training geared to their specific needs.

Key words: Tractors, efficient use, driver performance, tachograph, training.
RESUMEN

En la organización de Simunye Sugar Estates la caña se transporta al Ingenio durante las 24 horas del día, empleando 3 tractoristas en turnos de ocho horas. Cada uno de los 16 tractores está equipado con un tacógrafo o tacómetro que provee un registro continuo de la actividad del motor. Un analista experto en el uso del tacómetro usa estos registros para monitorear la actuación de cada día con referencia especial a:

- Productividad vs. Tiempo muerto.
- Habilidad de conducción o guía, e.g. sobrecarga del equipo, malos cambios de embrague, paradas bruscas.
- Eficiencia total en el turno.
- Ayuda al tractorista a corregir faltas.

El tacómetro mantiene siempre alerta al tractorista, pues él sabe que el instrumento registra todo lo que él hace. El sistema también alivia la tensión de supervisores, ya que no necesitan discutir con el tractorista—ellos reciben toda la información de la hoja de registro del tacómetro.

Palabras claves: Tractores, uso eficiente, actuación del tractorista, tacógrafo, entrenamiento.