

AMS.Rack

Ams.Rack Overview

Ams.Rack is an automation platform for truck and rail rack loading/unloading systems. Its primary function is to create Bills of Lading (BOLs) for cargos loaded or unloaded at the rack. It may be deployed as a kiosk-type, standalone application or integrated into an existing Windows desktop at the rack. AMS.Rack is built to run standalone when it has to, that is, without network connectivity. This enables your rack to remain in production even when the network is out or corporate systems are down for maintenance.

Ams.Rack may also be integrated with automated scale systems so that tare and gross weights can be fed directly from the scale into the application without the user having to key the weights in. Similarly, Ams.Rack can be integrated with SCADA systems to pull in loading temperature and other values.

Typical Rack Workflow

Ams.Rack was built to streamline and simplify rack paperwork related to BOLs and other client or government required forms. The figure below depicts how loading at a typical rack happens.

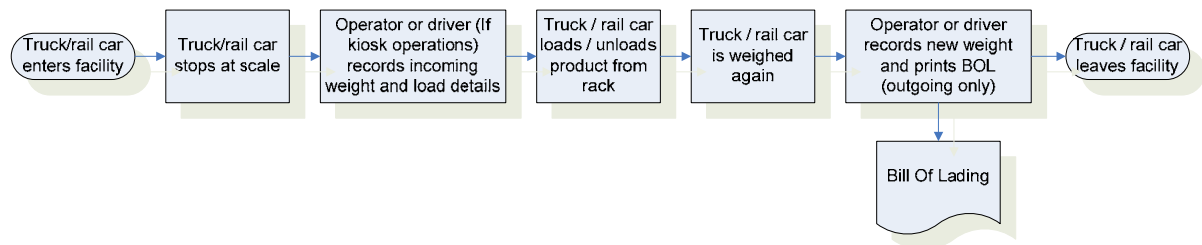


Figure 1. Typical Rack Operations

Ams.Rack's screens follow this model so that the operator (or driver, if in kiosk, unattended mode) can create an accurate, complete BOL as quickly and easily as possible.

Ams.Rack Functionality Overview

Rack System Local Capabilities

Users of the system enjoy the following general capabilities at the rack, even in standalone mode:

1. Operator logon / logoff to AMS.Rack
2. Start, suspend, and resume multiple load or unload tickets or other documents, such as checklists
3. Differentiate between rail and truck loads at the same facility
4. Capture Electronic Signature - Configurable
5. Generate a Bill of Lading
6. Load date validation– ensure loads are not taken before authorized dates

Truck Loading / Unloading

The following are the basic functions AMS.Rack provides when loading or unloading a truck:

1. Permit only authorized loading/unloading (configurable by rack): Driver enters a Release number, the client provided authorization code for the load he is hauling.
2. Generate Bills of Lading (BOLs) – edit only fields that are authorized

3. Capture Driver and Loader Signature electronically (configurable by Rack)
4. Print BOLs
 - o Print desired number of BOLs with signature, if required
 - o Once printed, the BOL is not editable by rack personnel
5. Interface with the rack scale to obtain tare and gross weights - configurable
6. Interface with the rack SCADA system to obtain loading temperature and load weights if applicable – configurable
7. Add a new driver – capture name, license number, hauler, etc
8. Update driver's training date when the driver receives new rack training
9. Add a new Truck – capture license tag, inspection dates, etc
10. Update Truck access permit
11. Add a new trailer – capture permit numbers, inspection dates, etc
12. Update Trailer Permit and Expiration Date

Rail Car Loading / Unloading

Operations at a rail loading rack differ from those at most truck racks. Therefore, AMS.Rack is designed to be equally at home in a rail yard. The basic functions AMS.Rack provides at rail loading racks include:

1. Permit only authorized loading/unloading: Generates a unique release number identifier for each load and unload. The release number has the following characteristics:
 - o It is generated using a client defined format. Requirements may include no gaps in the numbers or use of a separate numbering scheme based on mode of transportation, rack location, or other client specified criteria
 - o If the release number does not show up in the system, the load/unload is not authorized
2. Generate inbound and outbound Rail BOLs. BOLs can be directed to customers via email and/or internal client systems, such as AMS.Operations
3. Print a Rail Car Checklist form and record the needed results from the inspection. Different forms can be specified for rail loads or unloads
4. Ability to track Tank Test – due date
5. Ability to track Safety valve – due date
6. Communicate with the railroad short lines by sending emails or faxes with the client BOL or Empty Release Forms

Ams.Operations and AMS.Rack Working Together ...

Dramatically improves control, accuracy and productivity for all involved.

When AMS.Rack is used in conjunction with AMS.Operations, tickets flow from the Scheduling module in AMS.Operations to AMS.Rack when an AMS.Operations movement is scheduled. AMS.Operations generates the unique release number and sends it, along with other required ticket information to AMS.Rack where it is stored until the rail car or truck shows up. Once the BOL for the load has been finalized, AMS.Rack sends the completed BOL information back to AMS.Operations where the ticket is actualized, inventory is adjusted, and fees are calculated. AMS.Rack also updates the status of the ticket when the ticket is opened at the rack for processing, so AMS.Operations users also know when the loading/unloading process is underway.

Authorized users of the AMS.Operations can quickly update driver training records in order to require all drivers at a specific rack to be re-trained. This would be used when major changes to the rack systems are made.

For more information, call Provante at 281.367.3860, Extension 1 for SALES or email matt.goold@provante.com or chris.noellert@provante.com.