Los Angeles Sanitation Increases Uptime and Driver Comfort with Horton RCV250

Background
Located in the second largest city in the nation, LA Sanitation is the lead agency for the city’s environmental programs and initiatives. Dedicated to sustainably managing waste water, storm water and solid waste, the organization includes a fleet of more than 900 vehicles, including 800 refuse collection trucks and 160 street sweepers. Serving more than 750,000 customers throughout the city, LA Sanitation’s refuse trucks run long hours, often working from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. the next day.

CHALLENGE
LA Sanitation operates a fleet of more than 800 refuse trucks serving more than 750,000 customers throughout the city. Running for more than 15 hours a day with frequent stops, the company was looking for a turnkey solution that provided precision engine cooling with less maintenance.

SOLUTION
LA Sanitation worked with Horton to implement the Horton RCV250, which cools an engine by the precise amount needed, thus reducing the number of full-speed fan engagements necessary for optimal engine performance.

RESULTS
With the RCV250 system, LA Sanitation experienced a noticeable decrease in noise volume and cab heat – a welcome improvement to both drivers and mechanics. Additionally, the product has eliminated the need for fan drive maintenance.

PRIMARY CHOICE FACTORS
- Quiet while running
- Decreased cab heat
- Increased uptime
- Horton’s reputation for technical excellence and collaboration

“I would be interested in purchasing [the RCV250] for our new trucks, but I wasn’t able to spec this fan drive as an option. At this point, if I could have, I more than likely would have spec’d [the RCV250] for the 168 new trucks we’ll be getting.”

— John Ferris
Director of Fleet Maintenance
Challenges
Fifteen-years ago, LA Sanitation began working with Horton and was using on/off fan drives. Looking for a solution that reduced liner replacement, the organization later switched to Horton two-speed fan drives. Recently, the company began to install the RCV250 in select trucks to address issues associated with frequent fan clutch engagement due to a constant need for engine cooling.

In a city where the average temperature is approximately 75°, excessive heat generated by the trucks’ engines became a major problem, as the temperature in the cabs could reach uncomfortable levels, ultimately affecting driver comfort and performance. Noise was also an issue for drivers as the fan drive was engaging frequently to ensure proper cooling.

Solution
Horton’s Sales and Application Engineering teams worked with LA Sanitation to install the drive using an RCV250 retrofit kit, as the product provided the same specifications as original equipment models and allowed for decreased downtime.

After implementing the RCV250 system in five of its refuse collection trucks with the highest complaints of cab heat and clutch failures, LA Sanitation began seeing immediate results. Engineered to be a variable-speed solution rather than providing one or two speeds, the drive reduced cab heat by providing precise engine cooling, cooling the engine by the exact amount needed for optimal operation of all systems. Additionally, implementation of the RCV250 minimized noise due to the reduction of full, fan-speed engagements.

“Our technicians are excited to see viscous clutches on trucks. It’s almost been a year [since we installed the Horton RCV250] and we haven’t had a problem.”

– John Ferris
Director of Fleet Maintenance

Results
Running in tandem with the trucks’ Cummins Westport IFLG engine and Horton HS11 fan, LA Sanitation experienced notable results after installation of the Horton RCV250 including a significant reduction in noise. Additionally, since installing the Horton drive, clutch failures have been eliminated as liner wear is no longer a factor.

Remarkably, although the retrofitted trucks have only been a part of the fleet for slightly less than a year, the RCV250 system has eliminated the need for maintenance and has significantly extended the life of the fan drives.