

Rapid Liner rollout

ALLTRUCK BODIES HAS RELEASED A NEW RANGE OF CURTAIN-SIDED RIGID BODIES CALLED **RAPID LINER**. CENTRAL TO THIS IS A UNIQUE EUROPEAN-DEVELOPED CURTAIN SYSTEM TOUTED AS REVOLUTIONARY FOR THE BEVERAGE DELIVERY SECTOR IN AUSTRALIA.

Specialising in the manufacture and repair of rigid bodies and trailers, Alltruck Bodies was founded in Dandenong, Victoria, in 1991 by Tony Romano and George Mitrousis. Since then the company has built a robust reputation for creating a complete range of high-quality truck bodies at competitive prices for the rigid truck market. In recent years the company has expanded its offering to include the manufacture of pig and dog trailers, with matching units complementing

Fast Fact

Alltruck Bodies' new Rapid Liner range of curtain-sided bodies feature a European-designed curtain that is reported to require much less effort to open and close than conventional curtains.

the existing array of rigid bodies.

The company, which was started in a small leased factory with just four employees, has since grown into a large operation employing over 120 staff across four separate facilities in Melbourne and Brisbane.

Alltruck Bodies manufactures a wide range of rigid bodies including curtain-siders, Colorbond vans, fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) vans, tray, insulated, freezer and light-weight bodies. The company also stocks a comprehensive range of spare parts and is experienced in accident repairs and insurance work.

Its clientele comprises new truck dealership networks, owner operators, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), fleets, rental and leasing companies, small to medium enterprises (SMEs), large corporations and government departments. Skilled staff are key to the success of Alltruck

Bodies' business and its ability to produce superior quality bodies. Recognising there is a continual shortage of skilled labour in Australia, the company works closely with the Centre of Automotive Excellence to train new apprentices in-house.

With a constant emphasis on investment in new technologies, Alltruck Bodies recently expanded its Dandenong facility to include a specialised research and development (R&D) facility along with dedicated quality control bays.

The latest product development to emerge from Alltruck Bodies is the new 'Rapid Liner' series of curtain-side rigid truck bodies. These have been developed to facilitate extremely quick and safe unloading of pallets and beverages.

The first two models in the series are the Rapid Liner City and the Rapid Liner HD. Both models have been designed so that the

curtains concertina outwards to prevent them catching on the load inside.



The 'Rapid Liner' design enables efficiency gains for vehicle operators when loading and unloading cargo.

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The City model has been developed for sustainable city distribution roles with variants ranging from 3.6m to 8.0m long. It comes standard with quick-lock doors front and rear and, depending on the body length, one or two central rolling roof support posts. Meanwhile, the HD (heavy-duty) model has been designed and manufactured to suit both palletised transport and for the transportation of beverages. As the name suggests, it has been specifically designed to cater for heavy loads. The construction includes solid sliding posts with low-friction bearings along the full length, in addition to folding curtain plates to concertina the curtains.

There are a couple of recommended options available with the City model including a sliding roof mounted bungee system complete with hand ratchet winches to suit the laser cut coaming rails. These slide down the entire length of the body to contain loads of different dimensions.

Also optionally available are fold-down light-weight beverage steps. These can be either short sections or running the full length of the body.

According to one of the Directors of Alltruck Bodies, Tony Romano, the Rapid Liner bodies have a number of advantages over other rigid bodies in the marketplace. "Especially for beverage logistics operations, Rapid Liner has a number of features designed to provide significant advantages

in terms of work health and safety (WH&S)," Tony says. "For a start, the curtains require minimal effort to open and shut; in fact, they almost close themselves."

He goes on to say that the curtain system is a European design that the company has been evaluating for a number of years.

"We've used all sorts of curtain systems over the years, but I think this new system is going to top them all," he states, adding that the internal overhead bungee system for lashing loads is eminently suitable for beverage transport.

"With a lot of beverage units it's difficult to strap anything down because you can't get the load-binder strap over the edge of the body due to the location of the rollers on the side of the body," Tony says. "The Strap 'n' Go system we use to hold up the internal tie

downs eliminates this issue."

Speaking about the rollers, Tony is keen to elaborate on another aspect of the new Rapid Liner units he believes separates them from other systems, saying the difference is in the design of the top and bottom rollers. "Ours has extra horizontal rollers to prevent the system binding up," he explains. "This ensures a robust roller network that operates smoothly and is super easy to operate."

"All parts are also easily replaced should they get damaged, which helps reduce downtime and makes servicing a breeze."

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Alltruck Bodies' new 'Rapid Liner' series of curtain-side rigid truck bodies.



The Strap 'n' Go system keeps the internal lashing straps conveniently suspended and ready for use.