

Green Light transponders get second life

A Salem BATTERIES PLUS store continues to see an influx of orders to refurbish the Delco transponders that most truckers currently use for the Green Light weigh station preclearance program.

The store, which opened a Truck Transponder Service Center in 2003, stocks the unique transponder battery and will install the battery and test the electronics for \$14.99 per transponder.

The lithium battery in a transponder lasts 5-7 years. Since Oregon handed out many of them in the mid-1990s, it's been expected that they would fail by now. The Service Center has refurbished hundreds of the devices this year and several companies are reportedly sending in 50 or more at a time.

Transponders can be mailed to the Service Center, 3045 Lancaster Drive NE, Salem OR 97305.

The Oregon Department of Transportation's Motor

Carrier Transportation Division gives trucking companies the first transponders they need to get started in Green Light. It currently offers a Mark IV brand transponder that works just like the Delco brand. Once a company has its transponders, it owns them and when the batteries die it is responsible for paying to either replace the batteries or buy new transponders.

In a 2004 survey of companies participating in Green Light, about one of every three said they wouldn't want to spend \$50 for a new transponder. But most said they would spend \$15 to have the battery replaced.

Carriers with questions about refurbishing transponders can contact the Transponder Service Center at 503-581-4890.



The Delco Type II+ transponder circuitry runs on a Sanyo lithium battery. When the transponder stops working, it probably just needs a new battery. But it will only work with a Sanyo Model CR17450E-R battery. A Salem-based Truck Transponder Service Center specializes in installing new batteries so the transponder can be used for 5-7 more years.