

Safe as Houses

It's more and more difficult for operators to abuse or mishandle their forklifts. Apart from the obvious benefits of adequate training and supervision, automatic built-in safety features 'keep an eye' on your asset. "Supply Chain Today" talks to Gerhard Duvenhage, national sales manager for Criterion Equipment, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Invicta Holdings.



Gerhard Duvenhage, national sales manager

He explains, "Our new TCM FRSB-VIII electric sit-on reach truck series, with capacities between 1,4 tons and 2,5 tons, includes a load meter that prevents over-loading. When the truck is stationary and the hydraulic system is not active, the load meter shows the approximate weight of the load on the forks, to avoid an accident." He adds "One of the biggest causes of forklift damage and injuries comes from over-loading."

Approximate weight of the load on the forks, to avoid an accident



The FRSB-VIII electric sit-on reach truck series offers reliable performance, extended run times per battery charge, enhanced safety and improved operator comfort

Another safety feature is the password entry system which stops an unauthorised person from jumping onto your truck causing damage as they go. The travelling and load handling interlock system increases safety while an alarm buzzer sounds and both the hydraulic and travel controls are automatically disabled if the operator leaves his or her seat in the middle of an operation

Speed limit

Gerhard adds, "Drivers also can't abuse the truck by overloading and then moving around the warehouse at speed. If the forks are raised to the maximum fork height with a load, the truck automatically detects the fork height and weight of the load in order to limit the travel, reach and side-shifting speeds."

Then there's the design of the foot switch, which requires the operator to keep his left foot on the foot switch dur-

ing operation, so that injuries are prevented during operation in confined spaces. A wheel angle indicator, which shows the angle and direction of rotation of the drive wheel, is another important safety feature.

Kept in check

"Any would-be F1 drivers are kept in check with the steering angle sensitive travel speed limiter which automatically reduces the truck speed if the drive wheel angle exceeds a certain value, so that turning takes place at a safe speed. Also, the drive wheel slip control system keeps starts and acceleration smooth, even on a slippery surface, without the need for complicated accelerator control operations. An AC drive motor detects whether the drive wheel is spinning when starting or accelerating and any slippage is eliminated by fine-tuning the drive power," says Gerhard.

As an additional safety option, the rear wheels can be equipped with electromagnetic brakes. This feature enables the truck to come to a stop in a short distance, without sliding sideways, even on slippery surfaces.

Impressive staying power

"What's really impressive is the FRSB 16 - VIII's 420 Ah/6 hr battery unit, which can work for 11,5 hours in a specified work cycle pattern, at an operating rate of 55%." But long hours can mean operator fatigue, so a standard sideshifter moves the fork and load backrest to the left or right to align them perfectly with pallet openings when picking up a load. The sideshifter also allows easy and accurate stacking at the specified location, without having to reposition the truck frequently.

"In our quest for energy efficiency and if a warehouse is poorly lit, an optional fork positioning laser unit shines a visible laser beam from the base of the forks towards the rack, to enable easy insertion of the forks into the opening of the pallet. This device, which reduces damage to loads and pallets, is particularly well suited for stacking and unstacking loads in high locations and for handling loads in dark areas."

Gerhard concludes, "It's a well-known fact that TCM products command the highest re-sale value in the industry. Our stuff is tough, it's simple, it's durable."

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