

Criterion Equipment, which has supplied TCM forklift trucks to The Southern Bottlers Group in Malawi for over 35 years, has recently delivered eight new machines to the company's warehouse facility in Blantyre.

“These double pallet handlers, with a 2,5 T and 3 T capacity, are used by Southern Bottlers to efficiently handle sizeable loads of cans and bottles,” says Shaun Collins, national sales manager, Criterion Equipment. “The latest TCM engine powered forklifts, with new features for efficient operation in demanding conditions and for enhanced operator comfort, are further improving handling efficiencies at the plant.”

The newly designed iNoma range has been upgraded and re-designed for easier access, greater operator comfort, improved maneuverability, enhanced safety and extended service life.

These new forklift trucks ensure substantially reduced vibration with the use of dual floating systems for both the engine and the hood. The four point rubber cushion absorbers between the seat and engine and its transmission, minimise the transfer of vibration to the operator. The same four point suspension in the hood also reduces vehicle vibrations.

There is increased floor space for easier foot maneuvering, a lever which is positioned to the right of the steering wheel for easier entry and exit and a multifunctional suspension seat. A resin screen on the overhead guard ensures comfortable operation in all weather conditions.

For increased safety for the operator, there is a double action brake release on the lever, an extra wide step with an enlarged foot space and an anti-slip mat on the hood of the forklift.

By lowering the dashboard by 70 mm and the bar by 190 mm, visibility for the operator has improved by 50%. The re-shaped counterweight increases safety during backward movement.

Other safety features include an anti-roll mechanism during turning, a neutral safety mechanism where the engine cannot be started unless the change lever is in the neutral position and high mounted rear combination lights that are easily visible.

The new fork landing mechanism encompasses a fork lowering speed that decelerates at a height of approximately 150 mm above the ground. This enables accurate placement of the forks onto the pallet.

The front and rear stability has also been improved for stable and more consistent cargo handling. The TCM steering axels have also been strengthened for enhanced durability in demanding applications. Mast supports, tilt cylinders and tie bars have been re-designed to construct a sturdier mast. Oil filled lift cylinders have also increased durability of this series.

Optimal positioning of the fan, radiator and muffler, has improved the airflow and reduced the operating coolant temperature for more efficient operation.

These environmentally friendly forklift trucks, which conform with new emissions control and energy management systems, have been designed for reduced maintenance requirements.

Criterion Equipment supports its extensive range of materials handling equipment with a national technical advisory, spare parts, repair and maintenance service.

Suggested caption

Criterion Equipment, which has supplied TCM forklifts to The Southern Bottlers Group in Malawi for over 35 years, has recently delivered eight new environmentally friendly machines to the company's warehouse facility in Blantyre.

Left: Shaun Collins, national sales manager, Criterion Equipment and Joel Mungoni, group procurement manager, The Southern Bottlers Group, Malawi

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