

# PALLET LIFTER

## OPERATOR SAFETY MANUAL



## **INTRODUCTION**

Pallet lifters are a versatile tool for loading, unloading and transporting materials that are placed on pallets or dunnage to allow for fork entrance. Pallet lifters maximize the efficiency of overhead material handling systems and are frequently employed in areas that have narrow storage aisles or are inaccessible with fork lift trucks.

Pallet lifters should be used only by trained operators. It is the responsibility of each pallet lift operator to read and understand this Operator Safety Manual, the MHI operating guidelines, and all other information provided with the lifter.

Operators should be aware that failure to use correct operating procedures could result in personal injury, death and/or property damage.

## **REVIEWING THE MARKINGS**

Each unit is shipped completely assembled. Upon arrival, operators should take particular note of all safety warnings and decals.

The maximum load width for each pallet lifter is listed on a decal which is placed near the bail. The maximum load capacity is listed on the Bushman AvonTec identification plate, also located near the bail. The capacity is listed again in large numbers on the frame. Note the capacity rating and enter it in the space indicated on the back of this booklet.

To prevent accidents to personnel and equipment, never exceed the maximum load capacity of the crane. The weight of the load plus the weight of the lifter (also listed on the identification plate) cannot exceed the rated capacity of the crane. Likewise, never exceed the maximum load width as listed on the decal.

Operators must be familiar with all safety and identification decals and maintain them in a clean and legible condition. If new decals are required, call Bushman AvonTec to request free replacements.

Read the safety instructions decal carefully. Also note the decal that warns that this lifter must be operated in a level condition.

Avoid placing hands or arms in the areas indicated by pinch point decals. This will help prevent injury in the event that the load shifts.

An Identification and Safety Standards (ISS) sheet indicates the proper location for each decal.

## **BEFORE BEGINNING A LIFT**

Inspect the unit at the beginning of each shift to be sure it is in safe operating condition. Check that all capacity, weight and safety markings are in place and legible.

Wear gloves and observe pinch points during lifting operations to help protect fingers, hands and wrists from personal injury.

Plan each lift before engaging the load.

Make sure the lifter can handle the planned load safely. Do not lift loads heavier than the lifter's rated capacity. Likewise, the weight of the load plus the weight of the lifter cannot exceed the rated capacity of the crane. Use the lifter for its designated purpose only. Do not ride or allow riders on the lifter.

## **OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

The lifting bail on the pallet lifter is at the center of gravity (C/G) of the hook so the pallet lifter will hang level without a load. Remember to adhere to the maximum load width listed on the decal.

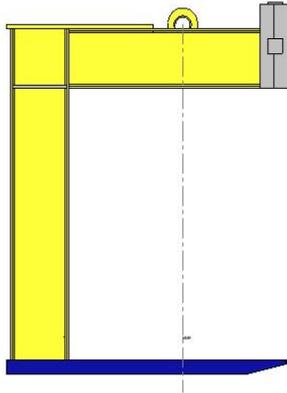
When ready to load, insert the forks of the pallet lifter into the pallet or under the load. Slowly raise the pallet lifter until it engages the lifting surface of the load. With the load engaged, the C/G of the load should coincide with the centerline of the bail to ensure that the load will be level when lifted.

If the C/G of the load deviates slightly toward the rear of the lifter, the lift may still be possible. However, wider loads with a C/G in front of the centerline of the bail cannot be lifted.

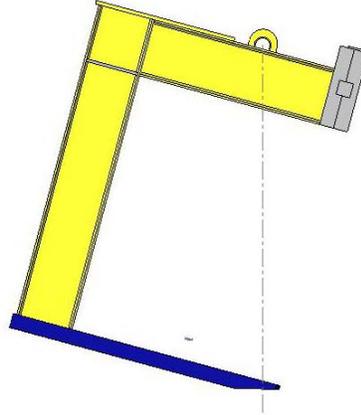
With the load correctly positioned on the pallet lifter, make a preliminary lift of a few inches to determine if the load is balanced.

If there is any concern--at any time--for the safety of the lift, discontinue use until all necessary corrections are made. Continue the lift only when it is determined to be safe.

**Pallet Lifter  
Hanging Level**



**Pallet Lifter  
Unbalanced**



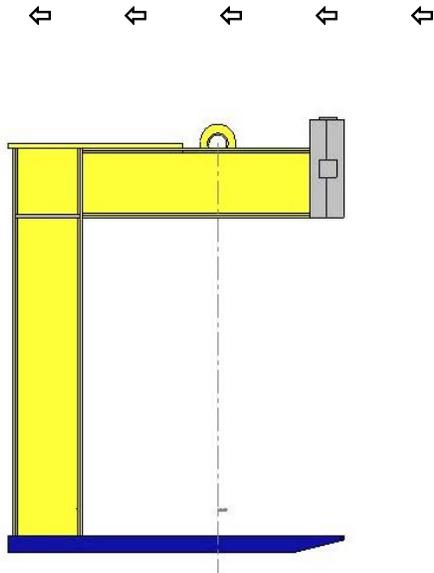
**Warning**

Do not operate the pallet lifter with the load C/G beyond the C/G limits of the lifter or with a load wider than the designated maximum width. C/G limits are approximately two inches toward the back of the hook, but zero inches toward the hook opening. If the load C/G is ahead of the C/G of the lifter, the pallet lifter may tilt allowing the load to slide off and cause personal injury or property damage.

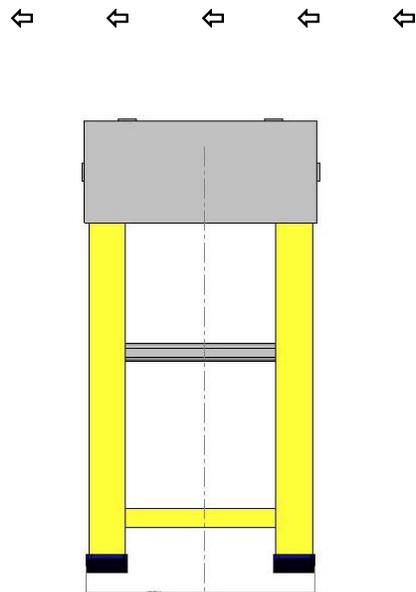
## MOVING THE LOAD

Before attempting to move the load, align the pallet lifter so that it is perpendicular to the path of travel. This will prevent the load from sliding off the lifter in case of a sudden stop.

### Unsafe Path of Travel



### Safe Path of Travel



Do not move the load over or near people.

During the lift, the operator should remain at a safe distance and should not push or touch the load.

Before moving a load, be sure the path of the load is clear of obstructions. Injury and damage could result if the load were to bump or catch on an obstruction.

Take instructions only from the person designated to give signals.

Do not lift the load higher than necessary to avoid obstacles or to stack the load.

Do not leave a suspended load unattended.

Avoid sudden starts and stops that may cause the load to swing like a pendulum and strike a person or object.

## **STORAGE STAND**

Pallet lifters are top heavy and can cause personal injury or property damage if they fall. Some units can be stored safely on a level floor, but others require a storage stand designed by a qualified individual. If you are not sure about the storage requirements of your unit, please consult with the factory. If needed, pallet lifter stands may be purchased from Bushman AvonTec.

### **Warning**

**When placing a pallet lifter on its stand, help to prevent injuries by keeping hands and feet clear of possible pinch points between the lifter and the stand.**

## **INSPECTION**

At the beginning of each shift, inspect the unit to be sure it is in safe operating condition. Be sure all capacity, weight and safety markings are in place and legible.

Safe operating practices require scheduled inspection procedures to ensure that the pallet lifter is maintained in a safe operating condition.

An individual record of inspections and repairs, such as the one on the back cover of this booklet, should be maintained for each lifter. Call Bushman AvonTec if you need additional copies of the log.

Every three months the pallet lifter should be visually inspected for cracked welds in the areas indicated in the drawing on the next page. Lifters showing excessive wear or damage should be removed from service.

Pallet lifters are furnished with various types of bails that should be inspected for wear. Call Bushman AvonTec for repairs or replacement parts if the load-bearing sections show wear in excess of 20% of the original. See certified drawing for original bail dimensions. Do not attempt to repair bails.

Do not attempt to modify or repair the lifting apparatus without consulting the factory. Modifications or repairs may create unsafe conditions and will void all warranties.

Check the entire unit for wear every six months. When ordering replacement parts or inquiring about the lifter, refer to the model and serial numbers shown on the identification plate.

#### Critical Inspection Areas

- 1 Bail connection to pallet lifter
- 2 Counterweight connection
- 3 Weld points
- 4 Wear points on bail

