

Edition 01

THE TAIL LIFT GUIDE

IMPORTANT MAINTENANCE TIPS &
MUCH MORE

REDDY MECHANICAL SOLUTIONS

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The history of tail lifts

ROAD TRANSPORT

Increasing suburbanization and mass production created an ever growing need for more transport. Small inland navigation disappeared in the 70s, and the road transport industry took its place. Goods were now transported by truck. In the early years, trucks were loaded and unloaded by hand. That meant two men to every truck.

THE FIRST TAIL LIFT

In the 1980s, a German company called Teha developed the first tail lift, driven by an electric motor. Before the end of the decade the hydraulically operated tail lift appeared, allowing drivers to perform their work without an assistant. It also reduced the manual labour and associated risks of injuries and damage to the goods. The hydraulically driven lift gate made it possible to transport heavy goods, with the tail lift serving as the bridge between the cargo space and the warehouse floor.

2 Safety



WHY TAIL LIFT SAFETY IS IMPORTANT

Around 20 pedestrians and 30 other road users (cyclists and moped riders) fall victim to tail lift-related accidents every year. This number is relatively low compared to other accidents with tail lifts. Looking at the numbers of people involved in accidents while working with tail lifts, over 800 people are injured during private use (e.g. while moving house) and around 200 while on the job.

TAIL LIFT FLAGS AND LIGHTING

The main reason for good visibility of an open tail lift is to prevent road casualties that could occur as a result of collision with an open tail lift..

If the lift protrudes beyond the normal contours of the vehicle, a warning system is required. One way this can be done is with reflective tail lift flags.

If the tail lift is in the horizontal position, the tail lift lighting flashes on the load platform. In contrast to the tail lift flags, this is visible from the side of the tail lift and in the dark.

2 HAND OPERATION 2-FOOT OPERATION

Tail lifts must be equipped with a two-hand safety control box. This makes it necessary for the driver to use both hands or feet when operating the tail lift. This ensures that the upper or lower limbs or the head cannot become trapped between the platform and the rear frame of the truck. The use of any other control that does not require both hands is at your own risk.

MARKER OF POINT OF GRAVITY

The marker of point of gravity shows the position of the load at maximum load and must be permanently affixed to the platform. In practice, this marking is either a pair of triangular plates, one on each side, to indicate the centre of gravity line or a centre point mark. For example, on a Bär Cargolift this is a rivet in the middle of the platform and on a Mariba it is a round plate, printed with the maximum load, located in the middle of the platform (the tail lift).

MECHANICAL PLATFORM LOCKS

Mechanical platform locks ensure that the platform cannot open while driving. The use of mechanical platform locks is mandatory in certain countries, but in some countries they are not required, provided that solenoid valves are installed on the cylinders. In any case, it is highly recommended that every tail lift be fitted with mechanical platform locks.

3

General Maintenance



MAINTENANCE OF THE TAIL LIFT

During raising and closing the only thing you should hear is the sound of the hydraulic group. Any other sound (grinding, scraping) should be carefully investigated in order to prevent serious damage. Regularly check the dust covers that protect the cylinders from stone impact and the effects of weather.

We recommend that you perform a 'minor service' of your tail lift quarterly or, if this is not feasible due to time constraints, a 'major service' annually. The big advantage of performing minor service each quarter is that it significantly reduces the chance that you will have problems while under way, because developing defects will be noticed in time.

WEEKLY MAINTENANCE

Inspection of the information code Label and other safety-related items (centre of gravity marking, etc.).

Verify that the control switches of the outside control and the extra control properly return to the neutral position.

Inspect the covers of the control cabinet and the hydraulic group. Are they are still present and undamaged?

Clean the tail lift. (Attention! During the first six weeks after the tail lift is installed it should not be cleaned with a pressure washer, because this removes the grease. After cleaning with a pressure washer it is necessary to grease all the lubrication points. Please contact us and we'll have this done immediately.

4 Brands

Overview

Different tail lift manufacturers are: AMA, Anteo, Bär Cargolift, Behrens, Dautel, Dhollandia, Mariba, MBB-Palfinger/Palgate, Ratcliff, Sörensen, Zepro, Mammut lift, Foco lift en Z-lift. Dhollandia has grown to become Europe's number one manufacturer of hydraulic tail lifts, producing over 28,000 units per year.

We can supply parts for all major tail lift brands, having close ties and being authorized re-sellers for many of these brands. We work especially close with Dhollandia, Tuffman (Tieman), Zepro and Bär Cargolift.

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR TAIL LIFT?

CONTACT US TODAY TO BOOK YOUR
NEXT SERVICE, REPAIR OR INSTALL.
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