

Greetings All,

Safety Control Systems in our workplaces continue to be a rapidly expanding part of our daily working lives. Compliance costs continue to rise and whilst we all should have the common principle of **No Price on Safety** as a key part of our core safety beliefs in the workplace, there is a point where some balance must be achieved.

The general community hires our mobile cranes and skilled personnel to come to their sites to achieve a wide range of lifting tasks safely, efficiently and with a minimum of fuss. That's what our members and their employees specialise in, each and every single day. Thousands of items are lifted, skated, relocated, removed, replaced and repaired across every conceivable workplace.

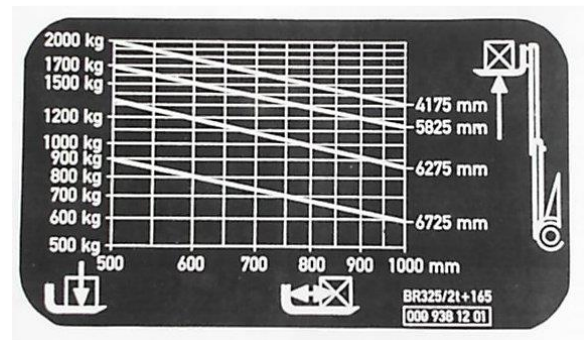
What happens if the cost of hiring a mobile crane and skilled persons becomes too high? What if there was another way that could be found to lift and shift an item that didn't involve hiring an expensive mobile crane?



If there is a forklift onsite, or an excavator, surely it should be ok to find a way of using that machine to lift and shift an item? After all, it only needs to be moved a short distance anyway.

Consider the picture above. The forklift attachment looks to be well made and has some safety markings on it. The maximum load of 3t gives an impression of strength – so surely that should be OK? The issue can often be that the forklift attached to the attachment is only good for 2t, and that's where the problems start to compound. Once the mast is raised a little, the 2t forklift is only good for 1.2t, and when the load is hooked on 3m in front of the mast, is there really a safe rated capacity at all?

The following 2t forklift load chart gives a pretty clear impression that once the load is more than 1m away from the mast, there is no safe way that the manufacturer will support loads to be lifted. Yet there is no computer or sensors that prevent the forklift being used in a manner that it was never designed for.



Our modern mobile cranes are now safer than ever before with considerable inbuilt safety systems. It has become a global standard that override capabilities have been removed from the cranes. Images such as the one below are now becoming rarer – and invariably are coming from parts of the world where the new crane safety systems are yet to be fully embraced.



If our potential clients start to consider the true cost of effectively managing risk in the workplace, perhaps the cost of hiring a well maintained mobile crane and skilled personnel might seem to be not so great when compared with the potential for an incident to financially ruin their company. Saving a few dollars on not hiring a crane can be an expensive choice.

Cheers for now and have a safe week!

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