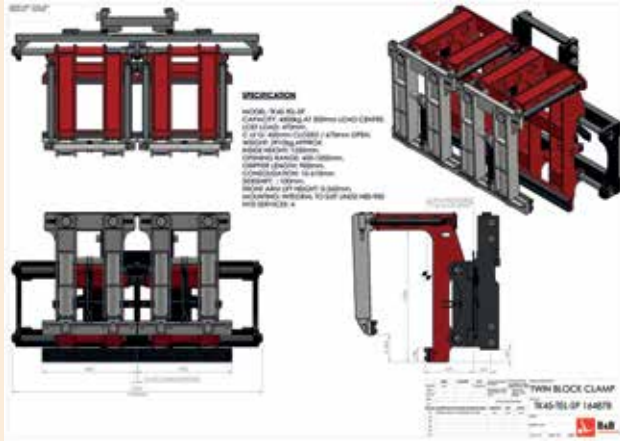




21005 Easy tautliner loading

Aggregate Industries > Callow Blockworks

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DESCRIPTION

Aggregate Industries Concrete Products Division based in Callow, wanted to improve the loading of trailers.

Loading curtain-sided vehicles, involved a time-consuming process of placing loads onto pallets and then loading by a conventional forklift. Using curtain-sided vehicles was preferred to flatbed trailers as they were more expensive, primarily because there is less scope for back haul of other goods with flatbeds.

However, the traditional, pivot style, overhead block clamp forklift truck attachment does not allow a curtain sided vehicle to be loaded. This is due to the inside height of the trailer which does not have sufficient clearance to allow the clamp to withdraw when the load has been placed in the vehicle.

AI wanted to find a solution to prevent money from being wasted on single use pallets and to ensure that they were loaded in the safest, most productive way possible. Not using pallets would lower costs, improve storage capacity, and prevent double handling of loads, ensuring that a load travels straight from the yard storage to the curtain sided vehicle. It would also eliminate the safety risk involved with moving a load on a pallet that could be unsuitable due to damage, the risks associated with additional forklift movements on-site with a bulky load on a pallet that might block the driver's view.

AI worked with a specialist attachment manufacturer to create a bespoke forklift truck attachment solution, the BlockMaster TK45-TEL. This innovative attachment has enabled block packs to be loaded without pallets onto the more readily available curtain sided vehicles.

The clamp works as a standard twin consolidating overhead block clamp, but also has the added key benefit of being able to load curtain sided vehicles. This added innovation allows its hydraulic system to work independently for each load, enabling the operator to clamp, load and withdraw easily and safely when

loading a curtain sided vehicle. The prototype clamp took some months to perfect as the hydraulics were so advanced.

Training was provided on-site to the forklift operators, by the attachment manufacturer.

BENEFITS

- Safer loading operation
- Reduced movements on-site
- Reduced cost of haulage
- Positive feedback from operatives on clamps performance.

TRANSFERABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

- The clamp can be retro fitted to most forklift trucks provided they have sufficient lifting capacity.

