

Basic Warehouse Concepts and Terms

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Introduction

Getting your warehouse right in terms of design, layout, and equipment is crucial as you strive to maximise performance. This document sets out to illustrate and advise on these key areas although is far from exhaustive and should be considered a starting point.

Administrative processes including IT functions also impact on performance but are not covered here, but for more information contact WBS Group or visit us at www.wbsgroup.com

Choosing the right equipment

The choice of material handling equipment (MHE) depends on the purpose of the operation. Is fast put-away and retrieval important or is high storage density the main consideration? Should the MHE operate in chilled and/or freezer conditions?

Bendi Truck

(also known as Flexi truck depending on the manufacturer)

- Articulated forklift suitable for narrow aisle operation (1.8m aisle width)
- High reach (up to 12 metres)
- A faster and more agile alternative to very narrow aisle trucks



Counter balance truck

- Wide aisle operation (3.5m aisle width)
- Regular workhorse in most warehouse suitable for loading vehicles and block stacking pallets
- Size and turning circle depends on the requirements for weight and lifting height



Reach truck

- Wide aisle operation (2.8m aisle width)
Suitable for high level placing and retrieving of pallets



Man-up Truck

A reach truck where the driver goes up with the forks. This system allows the driver to pick at height and provides better visibility when manoeuvring the pallet

- Wide aisle operation (2.8m aisle width)
- Suitable for high level placing and retrieving of pallets



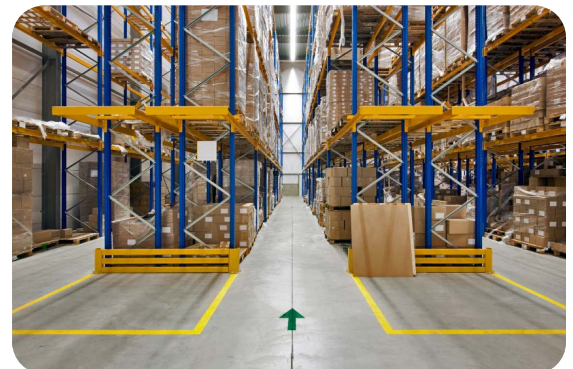
Order picking truck

- Also known as Low Level Order Pickers (LLOP)
- Used for picking at floor level and in some cases floor and level 1 above
- Either ride on or power assisted walking
- If order pickers are used to pick full pallets from a location pick aisles need to be wide enough to accommodate their turning circle



Wire guided truck

- Used in very narrow aisle (VNA) operations
- A wire imbedded in the floor takes over the steering from the driver to prevent collision with the racking
- Rail guidance performs the same function through a rail recessed into the floor



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