# DYCORE

**CHALLENGE:** To achieve operational efficiency handling concrete slabs in narrow storage aisles, while adhering to safety standards

**SOLUTION:** Hyster® H650XD48 forklift featuring ergonomic cab, additional cameras and a custom carriage with three forks

**RESULTS:** Productive concrete handling operations that reduce the risk of damage and optimize operator comfort

## THE CHALLENGE

Dycore, a leading producer and supplier of prefabricated concrete floor systems, operates from locations in the Netherlands including Breda, Lelystad and Oosterhout. The company provides a wide range of concrete flooring solutions for the residential and non-residential construction industries, produced and delivered for the needs of each specific project.

Its factory in Breda operates as a carousel system, making its own concrete as well as reinforcements from steel rolls. The concrete floor slabs produced may be different weights and dimensions but weigh on average around 15,400 lbs (7 metric tons). After manufacture, the stacks of slabs, each weighing up to 55,115 lbs (25 metric tons), must be moved to the facility's outdoor storage yard. Forklifts are then used

again to load the large slabs from the stock yard onto flatbed trucks to be transported to construction sites.

Handling large, heavy concrete slabs is demanding by its very nature. At its Breda site, Dycore faces additional complexity. To maximize storage space, its yard features increasingly narrow aisles, necessitating forklift solutions that offer both a high residual lifting capacity and a small turning radius.

Adhering to site safety rules, minimizing downtime and meeting just-in-time delivery deadlines are also crucial factors in maintaining operational efficiency.

## THE SOLUTION

To address these challenges, Dycore turned to Hyster and its local dealer, Heffiq B.V., who explored which solutions would best suit the company's particular operational requirements. Dycore already had a Hyster forklift with a 65,000 lb (30 metric tons) load capacity on the same site, dating back several years.

"In principle, you don't look at a truck as an individual component, but you look at what the truck does in a specific application," said Junior van Remortele, Sales Director, Big Trucks, Hyster EMEA. "Together with our dealers, we do that research and define what the customer really needs. Based on that, we design a truck and solution that best fits the customer's specific application."

Having explored the site-specific needs, Hyster devliered a new H650XD48 (H30XD12) forklift to expand the company's fleet.

"We chose the 65,000 lb (30 metric ton) forklift because it is a robust forklift," said Jos de Laat, Head of Technical Services, Dycore. "The service is very good, and the turning radius is small. That is very important to us because we want to make optimal use of the storage yard. That means that we want to keep the paths that the truck operates on as narrow as possible, and you need a small turning radius."

The Hyster truck's small turning radius enables Dycore to operate in outdoor storage aisles with widths as narrow as 32 feet (10 meters), optimizing site storage.

The H650XD48 model was also well-suited to Dycore's challenges due to the excellent all-around visibility from the truck's XD cab. During the decision-making process, Dycore visited the Hyster factory to look at the cab and see the difference that the armored glass top window, curved front and rear windows, and steel doors with tempered glass could make.

To further enhance operational efficiency and support Dycore's own safety processes, optional solutions were also specified. This included blue spotlights at the front and rear as well as a rear camera. Dycore added its own front camera, mounted on the mast, to maintain visibility when carrying a large load and to further support operators in the precise placement of the concrete slabs. A load backrest and specialized carriage were also implemented.

Maarten de Groot, Key Account Manager, Heffiq, highlighted the collaborative effort in developing a specialized carriage for Dycore to take on the specific challenges at the application. "It is necessary for Dycore to support the system floors with the carriage ideally using three forks. Bringing together Hyster, the attachment supplier and Dycore, we developed and installed a carriage well-suited for the operation and the new Hyster H650XD48 acquired for the site."

# CASE STUDY: DYCORE

## THE RESULTS

At Dycore, Hyster forklifts work together across two 8-hour shifts each day to support required productivity levels and deliver a low total cost of ownership. Minimizing the lifetime cost of the equipment is a core force during the development of Hyster heavy duty forklifts. Thanks to elevated levels of maneuverability, the Hyster forklift also saves on costs by helping to avoid damage to the truck and products in the yard.

The combination of custom attachments and superior visibility for the operator on the Hyster H650XD48 helps reduce the risk of handling damage to valuable concrete slabs, in turn minimizing disruption and unnecessary costs.

"In the past, we needed to reverse twice sometimes, but because the turning radius is much shorter, we can now turn in one go. Sometimes we only had 12 inches (30 cm) of turning space when reversing and that is now increased, which also causes less damage. Because sometimes, if you drive too far backwards, you hit another plate," explained Michel Feteris, expedition team leader, Dycore.

"The new cabin has so much glass, we can easily see where the forks are and that makes it simple for us to pick up the plates," he continued.

The forklift cab also offers a spacious work environment, with the largest entry area in the industry, more control with an integrated full-color screen performance display and maximized comfort thanks to the design of the seat, steering and controls.

The Hyster H650XD48 also helped Dycore achieve its safety goals.

"The safety procedures on the site are supported by limiting the speed to a maximum of 9 miles per hour (15 kmph) when driving forward," said de Laat. "In addition, we have a measuring system in the hydraulics of the mast. That measures the weight that is being picked up at that moment so we can prevent the forklift from being overloaded."

The relationship between Dycore, Hyster and Heffiq has been strong and collaborative throughout the process.

"We have been supplying our machines here for decades and have a good relationship with each other—we are in continuous contact," said de Groot. He went on to explain that Dycore also benefits from the close proximity of a dedicated account manager, as well as reliable service and support.

"We are of course very happy and proud that after years of collaboration, Dycore has again chosen to use Hyster in their heavy-duty application," added van Remortele.

Now that Dycore has an additional 65,000 lb (30 metric ton) Hyster forklift onsite, uptime is also maximized. While the new H650XD48 forklift is in daily use, the existing Hyster big truck is always available as a backup. This helps Dycore maintain continuous production and workflow.

In addition to the big trucks on site, Dycore has a fleet of lower-capacity Hyster electric forklifts and pallet trucks that are used to deliver items, such as steel coils, to the factory.

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