



TOUGH AND READY FOR INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING



FACTORS DRIVING CHANGE IN INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING WAREHOUSES

Industrial manufacturing is a complex and dynamic sector. In today's global market, one key area affected by changes, challenges, and trends is the warehousing operations within these tough applications. This is an essential part of the process, with warehouses used for storing, handling, and distributing raw materials and components, as well as for the storage of finished products ready for onward transport.

Warehousing is a cost factor. However, the right set-up can also offer a strategic advantage that can enhance productivity, quality, customer satisfaction, and competitiveness. Here, we explore some of the major factors that are influencing the industrial manufacturer's warehouse and why high-performance and reliable equipment is so important.



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DEMAND INCREASES... AND SO DO COSTS

It is not only the cost of living that has seemingly skyrocketed in recent years. The cost of doing business has also increased. Energy prices have risen, increasing the cost of manufacturing and warehousing. Property costs and rental rates have also increased, making the price of warehouse floorspace more costly per square metre.

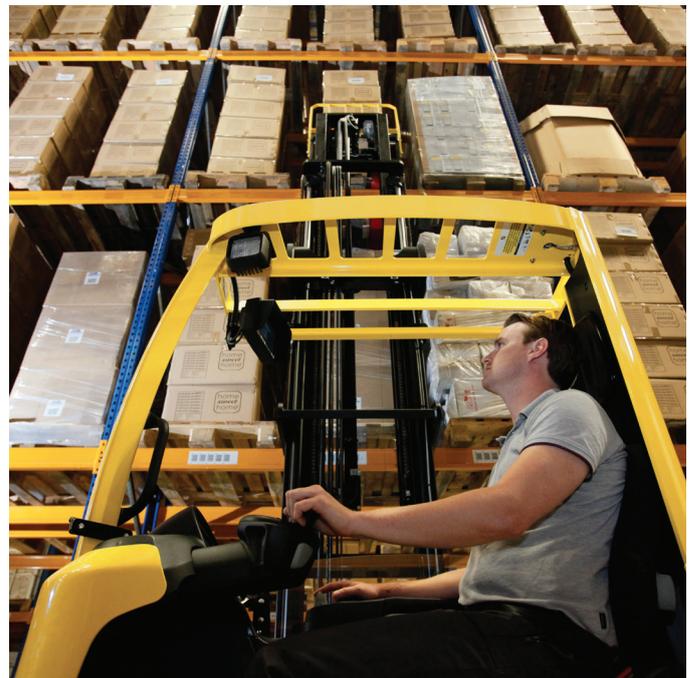
This means manufacturers are often looking at ways to optimise budgets. One area where this can be possible is within the warehouse equipment fleet. By investing in agile and versatile equipment that can optimise storage space, improve material flow, and increase throughput, industrial manufacturers can enhance their warehousing capacity and meet the growing demand for their products and services. This can also lead to higher efficiency, productivity, and profitability in the long run. However, selecting the right equipment is important to protect performance and efficiency levels. It's also essential to consider Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), not just purchase or lease prices. To assess the right equipment choice, businesses should collate details on potential operating costs, energy costs, and maintenance costs.

Reliability is also an important consideration for protecting profitable warehouses. Industrial operations are demanding, and downtime costs money. Equipment needs to be robust enough to take on demanding conditions and intense work patterns to help manufacturers to optimise equipment uptime.

Warehousing is a critical factor that affects the capacity and responsiveness of the supply chain, as it determines how fast and how much inventory can be stored, handled, and distributed. One of the ways to optimise storage space is to use higher racking systems that can accommodate more pallets and products in a vertical space. Here, equipment reach height is a core consideration.

Where manufacturers are adding more storage locations in the same warehouse footprint to keep costs under control, equipment may also need to be suitable for

working in more compact or narrow spaces without compromising stability and visibility. Equipping trucks with driver assistance features, such as cameras, sensors, and alarms, is an option that some applications may find helpful.



Hyster® Reach Trucks offer options such as a 14-metre mast option

Some warehousing applications are also storing items outdoors to maximise use of their space. These businesses need flexible trucks that can be used both inside and outside to optimise their fleets, and costs. The robust Hyster® RO1.6-2.0 Reach Truck models may help to aid material flow and increase throughput as there is no need to use transfer loads between different trucks. What's more, this truck series is designed to withstand harsh handling conditions found in industrial applications, whether that's dusty environments, or uneven ground conditions. For applications that face poor weather conditions, trucks configurations have cabin options to consider.



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OPERATOR DEMANDS GET LOUDER

To attract, retain, and motivate qualified and skilled warehouse workers in a competitive labour market is another major challenge for industrial manufacturers. Warehousing roles can be challenging occupations that require physical strength, mental agility, technical knowledge, and safety awareness. This is the case for materials handling equipment operators as much as warehouse operatives.

With a limited labour pool, meeting operators' needs is one way to stand out over competitive employers, both when recruiting and retaining team members. Industrial manufacturers can gain the edge by investing in a fleet of ergonomic and intuitive equipment that can enhance worker comfort, satisfaction, and performance.

Equipment that can deliver on operator ergonomics, even in intense operating conditions, can also help reduce the risk of musculoskeletal disorders, fatigue, and injuries among warehouse workers. Options such as platforms or 'rider' models that give operators a choice to sit, lean, or stand, may also suit some applications, especially in those warehouses where equipment carries out long runs.

Intuitive control can also play a role in improving worker engagement and performance, especially when it means equipment is easy to use, understand, and operate. Trucks that support optimum visibility can also help workers perform their tasks with ease and confidence, helping support efficiency.



Hyster® warehouse trucks are designed to deliver on operator ergonomics in tough manufacturing environments

GREEN ISSUES POWERING CHANGE

Reducing environmental impact and complying with more stringent regulations while meeting the expectations of customers, stakeholders, and society can prove challenging for industrial manufacturing businesses. Materials handling fleets are traditionally a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, and waste generation.

Some businesses are looking to lithium-ion battery technology to help improve the sustainability of their warehouse operations. However, the best power option will always depend on the particular application's needs. Local Hyster distribution partners can offer expert advice.

When matched with certain applications, lithium-ion battery powered equipment can support efficiency warehouse operations, all while emitting no tailpipe emissions.

Lithium-ion batteries, compared to conventional lead acid batteries, have higher energy density. This means more energy in the same space if needed. Lithium-ion batteries can also support opportunity charging. Operations can charge the truck's batteries fast and frequently, over break times for example.

Lithium-ion batteries may also last longer, meaning less waste and environmental impact from battery disposal and replacement.

Unlike conventional lead-acid batteries, lithium-ion batteries also require no off-gassing or watering, and there is no risk of acid spills. And this technology is achieving new reaches, on ever more complex equipment. For example, the Hyster Outdoor Reach Truck can be specified with a lithium-ion battery option.



Many tough Hyster® warehouse trucks are available lithium-ion ready



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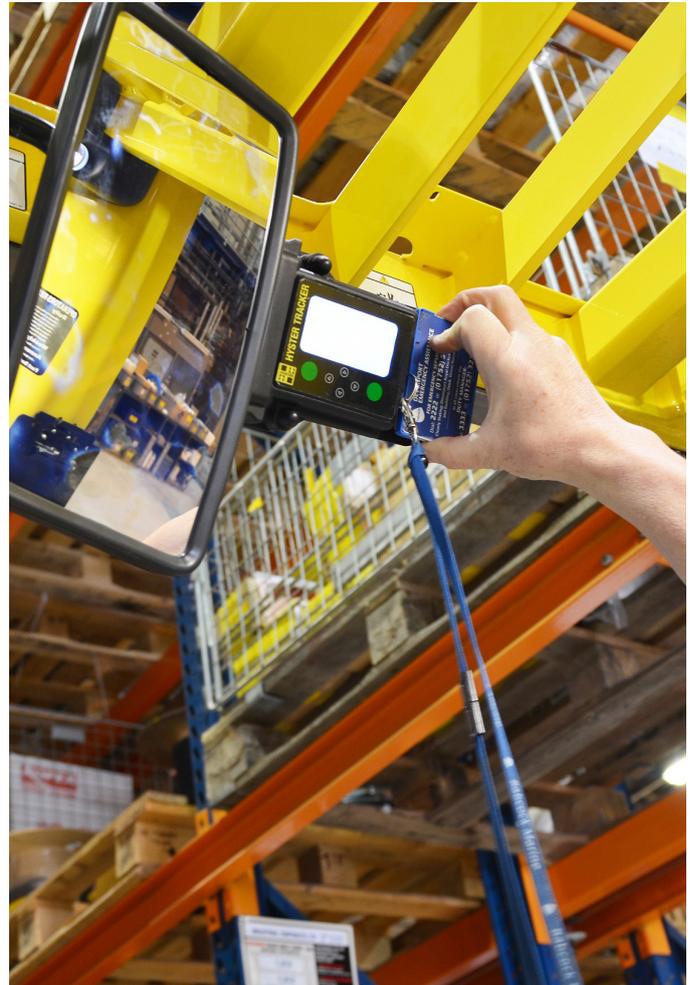
RIGHT-SIZING FLEETS FOR PEAK DEMAND

It can be a challenge for industrial manufacturers to adapt to the seasonal and cyclical fluctuations in demand for their products. Flexible and scalable equipment can help industrial manufacturers adjust their storage capacity and materials handling capabilities to cope with peaks in demand.

Short-term hire, for example, allows industrial manufacturers to rent additional materials handling equipment for a specific period of time, such as a few weeks or months, to meet temporary or unexpected peaks in demand. This can provide a cost-effective and convenient way to access the latest technology and equipment without committing to long-term contracts or capital expenditure. Short-term hire can also help industrial manufacturers avoid downtime, maintenance costs, and storage fees associated with owning excess equipment.

Another way to right-size a warehouse fleet is to purchase used trucks that have been refurbished and tested to ensure quality and reliability. Used trucks can offer a lower initial cost and a faster return on investment than new trucks, while still providing high performance and efficiency. This may also help bring equipment into the fleet fast, where global supply chain challenges may otherwise mean a short wait for new equipment.

Telematics on warehouse equipment can also help provide insights and data on performance, utilisation, and fleet maintenance. This may help industrial manufacturers optimise their fleet size by identifying underused or overused equipment, so that fleets can be right-sized to match changing demand.



Hyster Tracker™ offers wireless asset management and insight across the entire warehouse fleet

