



RAISING THE BAR



WALTER HUNDHAUSEN GMBH & CO KG

CHALLENGE: Support business growth through increased production of ductile cast iron elements for the automotive and commercial vehicle industries

SOLUTION: Specialized, heavy-duty Hyster equipment built to withstand intense duty cycles and extreme temperatures around an oven that melts iron at over 2,700° F

RESULTS: Reliable, customized trucks work at maximum capacity with reduced downtime to bolster Hundhausen's overall productivity



// THE CHALLENGE

The Hundhausen factory, located in Schwerte, Germany, produces high quality ductile cast iron components for passenger and commercial vehicles, supplying clients such as BMW, MAN, Mercedes and SAF.

To capitalize on high demand, the foundry implemented new production technology, including a new oven with a melting capacity of more than 76,000 pounds per hour. Parts of the operation are described as the "Gates of Hell," with iron shards reaching 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit and bombarding lift trucks at speed.

In order to keep production on pace, Hundhausen operates around the clock – three shifts per day, six days a week. The duty cycle is so intense that the operation routinely retires trucks after a period of only 18 months. Metal production and handling continuously evolve, requiring the flexibility to adjust existing solutions or implement new ones as needs change.

With such a unique, demanding duty cycle and extreme conditions, Hundhausen needed strong, reliable trucks customized to minimize maintenance downtime and help support operator safety and performance.



// THE SOLUTION

To optimize productivity in these extreme conditions, Hundhausen turned again to the only lift truck supplier proven to offer the strength they needed over the last three decades – their longstanding partner, Hyster.

EQUIPMENT SUMMARY

- H300-360XD big trucks with 30,000-to-36,000-pound capacity, adapted for the extreme operating environment
- H60-H120FT lift trucks with 5,500-to-12,000-pound capacity
- Platform pallet trucks

While they had used a few competitive truck models in the past, Hundhausen chose to make Hyster their exclusive materials handling supplier and standardize their entire fleet to ease management and maintenance.

Working with Hundhausen, the team at Hyster evaluated the foundry's requirements and narrowed in on a fleet of big trucks, standard lift trucks and pallet trucks. The trucks were reinforced for extra durability to withstand the heat from the melting ovens, minimizing downtime for maintenance and repairs otherwise required by the specialized application.

Hundhausen put the customized Hyster big trucks to work optimizing productivity in the “Gates of Hell.” The steel roof and heat resistant front screen of the cab on the big trucks help protect operators and equipment from sparks and hot, flying debris. The advanced ergonomics of the new cab also offer all-around visibility to support high operator performance all shift long – even in the foundry's harsh conditions. For the rest of the factory's day-to-day material handling needs, they deployed a fleet of nearly 30 Hyster® lift trucks and platform pallet trucks.





// THE RESULTS

With the new trucks in place, Hundhausen experienced minimal downtime and enhanced operator productivity, thanks to the durability and ergonomics of the trucks, along with their application-specific enhancements.

Extended fenders, for instance, help protect the tires from sparks and debris, minimizing tire wear and necessary repairs and replacement. On the lift trucks, the unique Hyster® Duramatch transmission system provides a smoother ride for operators while helping reduce wear to tires and brakes during aggressive direction changes.

Hundhausen found the solution they needed – equipment capable of handling an intense duty cycle of more than 6,900 hours per year in harsh conditions. Standardizing the fleet across the facility also helped enable more efficient fleet management and streamlined maintenance when service is required.

