

# REAL

August 2021

# Torque

Contact maintenance for any questions on 0800 80 80 69

## Side Loader Container Cranes

Side lifters and side loaders are two words that are associated with essentially the same piece of equipment. They are just a trailer or truck mounted container handling crane. A side loader is an incredibly versatile piece of equipment which can be used to transfer and transport a shipping container to and from a loading point, a trailer, a truck or even a railway wagon.



We have many different brands and different types of side loaders in our fleet. Did you know that two of these brands of side loaders started life here in New Zealand? Swinglift, which is now owned by Patchell, started life thanks to an engineer named Rob Wynyard all the way back in 1968. Swinglift is still manufacturing to this day in Rotorua. Steelbro has recently returned to New Zealand and has a manufacturing and repair workshop that has just opened up in Christchurch. Hammar, a Swedish brand of side loader is represented strongly in our fleet. Hammar trailers are manufactured here in New Zealand, with the modules coming from Sweden.



It is a common misconception that “Swinglift” and “side loader” are one and the same, but as you can see from the above, Swinglift is a brand with its own distinct characteristics. Swinglift is well known for its unique early chassis design, the lattice chassis. This design was developed to give a low tare weight while maintaining excellent strength.



One key design characteristic is Swinglifts' unique lifting modules, which combine a leg over style stabiliser leg and lifting gibs all in one assembly. This means that deployment of the legs and lifting gibs happens quickly and efficiently with less moving parts.



The latest side loaders are equipped with new state of the art HMI (Human-Machine Interface) Systems and sensors making the side loader very safe and easy to operate.



Safe operation of side loaders is paramount, and there are some key areas to be aware of when operating these machines. Understanding "Exclusions Zones" and "Safe Working Zone/ Capacities" is an important part of safe side loader operation.

**All TR Group side loaders are equipped with a minimum safety standard package of Lights, Beacons, and Signage to help identify the hazards around side loader operation.**



TR Driver Training offers a practical and theory-based course that provides drivers and operators with the skills and knowledge to safely and legally operate side lifters. **Contact the TR Driver Training team on 0800 637 000 for more information.**

### Tips and Tricks



#### TR Tips

- ▶ Ensure you are competent and comfortable with the operation of the side loader.
- ▶ Visually inspect lifting chains for damage and up to date certs as part of pre-shift inspections.
- ▶ Visually inspect stabiliser legs and lifting arms/gibs for damage as part of pre-shift inspections.
- ▶ Adhere to "Exclusion Zones" and "Safe Operation" information and placards.
- ▶ Ensure system air is built up before operation.
- ▶ Keep remote batteries on charging rotation to avoid stoppages mid-operation.
- ▶ Ensure all fluid levels are correct (oil, coolant etc.) If any fluid leaks are noticed, advise TR Group Maintenance before use.

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