



HYSTER SALES TIPS

Reach Truck OEC

The Safe Choice

Last time we talked about how the Load Wheel dimensions and Open End Clearance (OEC) determine Base Width ... and how both they and a Sideshift come into play in figuring truck capacity. Today we'll explore – using the second half of Glenn Spiers' original "tip" – the pros and cons of wide vs. narrow Base Widths.

WHEN SPECIFYING NARROW BASE ARMS (FOR EXAMPLE 34" OR 35" OEC)

This is often referred to as the "Up and Over" method of handling a pallet. At ground level when picking up a pallet, the carriage must reach out to engage the pallet, lift the pallet up high enough to clear the base arms, and then retract the load back over the base arms to a carry level position.

Advantages:

- The narrower truck can work in most drive in rack applications.
- At lower lift heights, capacity should not be a factor.
- A narrower truck will allow two trucks to more easily pass in aisles. With a 34" OEC truck and 5" x 2.9" load wheels, two trucks can easily pass in a standard 9' aisle ($43.25" + 43.25" + 18"$ clearance $[6" + 6" + 6" - \text{this is the min recommended clearance between truck \#1 and the rack, between the two trucks and between truck \#2 and the rack}] = 104.5"$).
- A narrower truck can "block stack" in dock areas using less space.
- A narrower truck can result in more maneuverability which can result in less product or rack damage. Note that with narrower base arms, the turning radius does NOT decrease. (the turning radius is the center point of the load wheels to the outside radius of the chassis)

Disadvantages:

- Reduced capacity at higher lift heights – see last week's "tip"
- Reduced Productivity – every time a pallet is picked up or deposited at ground level, the reach mechanism must be extended or retracted.
- Reduced Productivity – there is less visibility of the base arms than with a wider base arm truck

WHEN SPECIFYING WIDER BASE ARMS (FOR EXAMPLE A 41" OR 42" OEC)

A 41" or 42" OEC Reach Truck is often referred to as a "straddle reach". With a standard 40" wide pallet, the base arms straddle the pallet for ease of handling. I prefer a 42" OEC over a 41" OEC, as it gives you a bit more clearance. At ground level you drive up to the pallet, straddling it with the base arms, raise the load 6", and then just drive off.

Advantages:

- Wider base arms will give you more capacity at higher lift heights, due to increased lateral stability.
- Straddling the pallet can improve productivity at ground level. You save time vs. the "up and over" method.
- There is improved productivity and less potential pallet and rack damage due to improved base arm visibility.

Disadvantages:

- Not suitable for most drive in rack applications.
- Wider aisles are required for passing in the aisles, for example, with a 42" OEC and 5" x 3.9" load wheels, a minimum $10 \frac{1}{2}'$ aisle should be used ($53.25" + 53.25" + 6" + 6" + 6"$).
- More space is required in the dock area for block stacking.

Note: With the "straddle reach" open end clearance, you should always order the optional "Tapered Base Arm". They can improve productivity and reduce pallet or rack damage.

As you can see, for every advantage, there are potential application disadvantages. Generally, I've found that most reach trucks under 20' -23' lift heights use narrower base arms, and most reach trucks over 23' use wider base arms. But ... there are exceptions to every case. Contact your Regional Electric Truck Manager, if you have any questions.

...GOOD Selling