

Right The Crown Walkie-Reach Stackers are capable of stacking the ULD's three high.



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Below Australia Post's Warren Lucas



“Other than that, a major consideration was the ability to load and unload a delivery vehicle from one side,” added Warren.

Being able to load and unload a vehicle from the one side enables Australia Post to utilise a lot of space, which was being wasted to provide access to both sides of a delivery vehicle by a conventional stacker or forklift. It also enables loading and unloading to occur undercover at most locations.

The majority of mail transferred between transport hubs, mail centres and local post offices occurs using standardised unit loads (ULDs).

With the same footprint as a pallet, and weighing up to two tonnes when full, the ULDs are self-stacking, with the double-deep reach stacker capable of stacking them up to three high.

The excellent manoeuvrability and tight turning circle of the walkie-reach stacker was another factor in its favour, said Warren.

Safety was another concern, with the walkie reach stacker concept again scoring highly with Australia Post.

“Our mail centres are busy, active places and people are always on the go,” he said.

“In our opinion, a pedestrian-operated walkie-reach stacker is a much safer alternative than a forklift in such busy environments.”

The double-deep walkie reach stackers were all manufactured locally by Crown to Australia Post's specifications.

“Because the walkie-stacker may be the only piece of materials handling equipment at some of our facilities, reliability, and the ability to provide prompt efficient service, were major considerations,” said Warren.

“We felt very comfortable selecting a supplier like Crown, which has one of the most comprehensive national service infrastructures in the materials handling industry.”

Heavy-duty gearboxes and lifting mechanisms are designed to minimise maintenance requirements, while long-life traction batteries provide ample power to keep the stacker working throughout an eight-hour shift.

The batteries are easily accessed for maintenance and charging, while rollers in the battery compartment allow for a safe and quick battery change.

With various lifting heights and two and three stage masts configurations, Crown offers a range of stackers to suit many applications.

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Crown delivering for Australia Post



When Australia Post realised the piece of materials handling equipment they required was not a standard configuration, they turned to Australia's only local manufacturer of forklifts, Crown Equipment.

As part of an equipment rationalisation programme, Australia Post has recently introduced Crown double-deep walkie-reach stackers at a number of its mail handling centres in Victoria.

Australia Post has opted for the unusual configuration of a double-deep walkie-stacker to provide maximum materials handling flexibility at each location.

Australia Post's Victorian Fleet Analyst, Warren Lucas, said a major consideration when selecting a standardised item of materials handling equipment for multiple facilities was that it would be capable of fulfilling the general and site-specific materials handling requirements at each location.

Above The Walkie-Reach's double-deep reach mechanism provides Australia Post with the ability to load and unload trucks from one side.