

This interpretation was agreed by the Machinery Working Group at the meeting held on 9-10 November 2016 as a basis for a consistent application of the term ‘interchangeable equipment’ as defined in Article 2 (b) of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC. The document gives examples of equipment that are considered as interchangeable equipment to be assembled with industrial trucks.

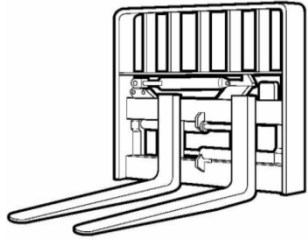
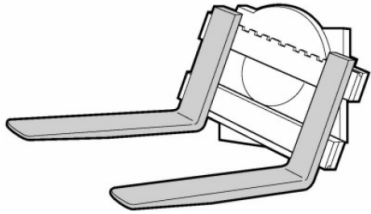
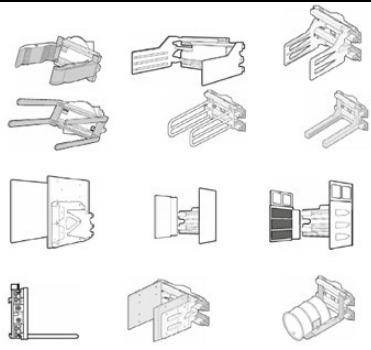
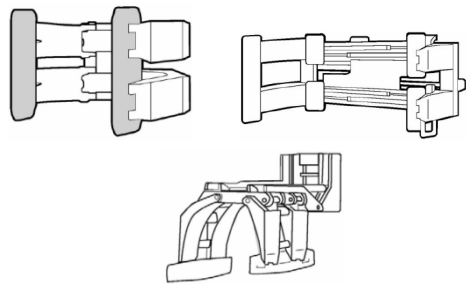
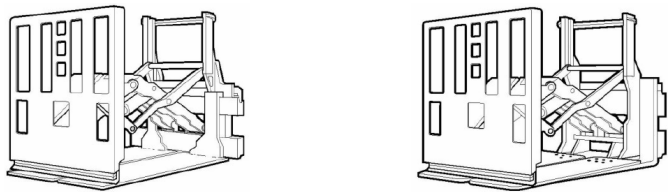
Subject: Industrial trucks and equipment for handling loads

The industrial trucks are frequently used in combination with equipment on the load carrier or on the fork arms. This equipment:

- in many cases is made by manufacturers different from the manufacturer of the industrial truck;
- is intended to be assembled with an industrial truck. It's attachments fit with the fork arms or with the anchorages of the load carrier;
- is generally placed on the market or put into service independently respect to base machine;
- is assembled with that machinery by the operator of the industrial truck or by expert persons;
- allows to handle loads in different manners with respect to pure lifting/lowering functions, as for example: lateral displacement, clamping, rotating, overturning, stabilizing, pulling and pushing.

In some cases, this equipment introduces new hazards not foreseen by the manufacturer of the base machine.

Some examples of such equipment are described in the following table.

<p>Lateral displacement</p> <p>This attachment allows the lateral displacement of the fork arms on a predetermined length.</p>	
<p>Rotating attachment</p> <p>It is used for rotating pallets, containers, baskets, etc. It allows to rotate at least of 360°. The rotation is determined, for example, by an hydraulic engine.</p>	
<p>Clamp with parallel forks/arms</p> <p>It is used for handling cardboard bales, wool, garbage, reels of cellulose, foam blocks, concrete blocks, kegs, reels, etc. It allows to clamp the load by means of the parallel motion of its forks/arms. It could present also the lateral displacement of the load.</p>	
<p>Clamp for reels</p> <p>It is used for handling paper reels of different nature. This attachment could also continuously rotate the load by means hydraulic or mechanical elements. The main kinds of clamps for reels are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pivoting arms; • parallel arms; • overturning arms. 	
<p>Pulling/pushing</p> <p>It allows to handle loads without pallet.</p>	

The equipment herein reported has to be considered as interchangeable equipment as defined at letter b) of article 2 of Directive 2006/42/EC:

a device which, after the putting into service of machinery, is assembled with that machinery by the operator himself in order to change its function or attribute a new function, in so far as this equipment is not a tool.

In fact, the above mentioned equipment has technical features common to the aforementioned definition: it is assembled with the industrial truck by the operator himself and it attributes a new function to the industrial truck (lateral displacement, clamping, rotating, overturning, stabilizing, pulling and pushing the load).

As a consequence, what is stated in paragraph 41 of Guide to application of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC, the aforementioned Guide applies.

The only exclusion applies to equipment which is assembled with basic machinery by the manufacturer when the machinery is placed on the market and which is not intended to be changed by the operator. In this case it is not considered as interchangeable equipment but as part of the basic machinery.

It should be noted that Equipment that is not assembled with the industrial truck but simply lifted by the industrial truck (e.g. placed on the forks of a lift truck) is not interchangeable equipment even if it is provided with means to prevent it slipping or falling from the forks.