	Engineering Technical Bulletin	Document AITA-10-0003	Page 1/2
	Towing & Forklift Trucks Guidance Paper	Rev. Date 01-Nov-2010	Rev B

A forklift truck shall not be used for towing trailers etc. unless it is designed for towing and is rated accordingly on its serial/data plate.

In addition, Australian Standards AS2359 part 2 "Operation", 3.2 (General Rules), clause (s) states: *"Do not use an industrial truck for any purpose for which it is not designed or equipped, such as pushing a load or any other object."*

Relevant clause in EN1726-1, 5.9.5 **Towing Devices** (new ISO3691.1 has clause similar **5.12 Devices for towing**) *"Trucks used for towing trailers shall be fitted with towing or coupling devices designed, constructed and arranged to ensure easy and safe connection and disconnection and to prevent accidental disconnection during use."* Also as per EN1726-1 clause 7.3.1.1 the serial data plate needs to specify supporting force of tow hook and draw pull in N (Newtons) requirements.

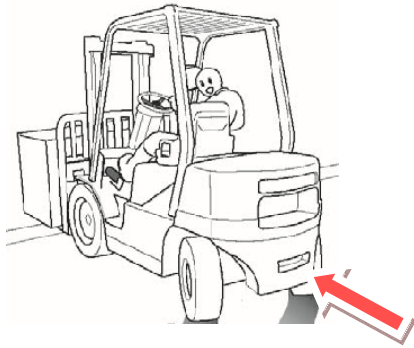


illustration 1.

Note: Battery Electric Counterbalance or Internal Combustion counterbalance trucks may be equipped with a "Tow coupling"/ "Tow Pin"/ "Tow hitch" which is usually located in lower part of trucks counterweight as per illustration 1.

This "Tow coupling"/ "Tow Pin"/ "Tow hitch" is typically provided so the forklift can be safely towed when broken down and NOT for towing, UNLESS specified otherwise by manufacture in the user manual and serial data plate.




illustration 2.

⚠ WARNING

The use of towing attachments attached to the forks or fork carriage as per example in illustration 2 **is not allowed** for the following reasons:

1. Forklifts are not designed for dragging loads.
2. Use of this type of attachment can cause damage to the carriage or front end.

"Do not use an industrial truck for any purpose for which it is not designed or equipped, such as pushing a load or any other object." (AS 2359 Part 2)

	Engineering Technical Bulletin	Document AITA-10-0003	Page 2/2
	Towing & Forklift Trucks Guidance Paper	Rev. Date 01-Nov-2010	Rev B
⚠ WARNING			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal injury or death could result when towing a disabled lift truck incorrectly. • Block the lift truck wheels to prevent movement before releasing the brakes. The lift truck can roll free if it is not blocked. • Do not tow a disabled lift truck faster than 2km/h. • Do not allow operator on the lift truck being towed unless the steering and/or braking can be controlled. • Connect the tow chain or bar as low as possible on the lift truck that is being towed. • Keep the tow chain or bar angle to a minimum. Do not exceed a 30° angle from the straight ahead position. • Sudden lift truck movement could overload the tow chain or bar and cause it to break. Gradual and smooth lift truck movement should be used. • Towing should only be undertaken on a level surface. 		<p style="text-align: center;">Towing instructions for moving a disabled lift truck</p> <p>These towing instructions are for moving a disabled lift truck a short distance, at low speed, to a convenient location for repair. These instructions are for emergencies only. Always transport the lift truck if long distance movement is required.</p> <p>Note: Consult your lift truck manufacturer/supplier or authorised dealer for towing a disabled lift truck, as some trucks might have special requirements for towing e.g. releasing electric brake.</p> <p>Before towing, make sure the tow chain or bar is in good condition and has enough strength for the towing situation involved. Use a towing chain or bar with a strength of at least three times the gross weight of the towing lift truck for a disabled lift truck stuck in the mud or when towing on a grade.</p> <p>The towing lift truck should be as large as the disabled lift truck. Satisfy yourself that the towing lift truck has enough brake capacity, weight and power, to control both lift trucks for the grade and the distance involved. To provide sufficient control and braking when moving a disabled lift truck, a larger towing lift truck or additional lift trucks connected to the rear could be required. This will prevent uncontrolled rolling.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out a risk assessment of the towing situation. 2. Inspect counterweight securing bolts to ensure they are in position and tight on both forklifts. Inspect tow pin; use only the tow pin supplied with the forklift. 3. Block disabled truck wheels. 4. Fasten the tow chain or bar to the lift truck. 5. Release the parking brake. 6. Check that the service brake pedal is released. 7. Key switch is in the OFF position. 8. Direction control lever is in neutral. 9. Remove the wheel blocks. 10. Tow the lift truck slowly. Do not tow any faster than 2 km/h. 	