CESAB case study

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# Compact CESAB enhances productivity

Part of the global Morgan Technical Ceramics group, MTC Certech is based in Corby, Northamptonshire, where it manufactures ceramic cores used to make high performance parts for the aerospace and industrial turbine industries, among others.

MTC achieved an impressive three environmental, management and health and safety standards in 2009. To support these achievements, the company asked CESAB dealer, Hitec Lift Trucks, to help it review its materials handling operations.
Hitec Lift Trucks identified a number of safety and accessibility issues, with pedestrian counterbalanced stackers used in several challenging environments including the die store where a wide range of tooling equipment weighing up to a tonne per piece is kept. Stackers were also used in the injection shop where 16 machines of varying capacities are fitted with different tooling and the kiln room where cores are fired at a temperature of 1200°.

Operators were using the stackers to move tooling from the die store to the injection shop, with a great deal of physical effort required to use the stackers to manually push the tooling into the right position in the machines.

Manual stackers were in use in the kiln room because its narrow aisles and restricted space meant that equipment in this area had to be small and highly manoeuvrable to prevent it from hitting the gas elbows or pipes. The pedestrian stackers had to lift the saggers onto the kiln beds and because they could not be used with precision, the operator would often have to manually assist in placing the sagger on the kiln bed.

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*"With drivers inside the cabin and the truck doing the hard work of manoeuvring loads into position, the operator no longer takes the strain. Since we have started using the trucks, on-site manual handling injuries have dropped significantly."*

***Alex Bailey, MTC Certech***

### Highly manoeuvrable

As a smaller, highly manoeuvrable forklift, the Blitz 100 can move easily around the kiln room and its narrow aisles. As the truck slows down around corners, operator and load safety is also improved.

### Precise operation

The side shift feature of the CESAB forklifts means that loads can be positioned precisely and more safely.

### Extendable forks

The optional extendable forks fitted to the Cesab Blitz 100 also help to remove and replace parts of the machines during repair and maintenance, which saves employees from doing this manually.

## Better business performance

Hitec Lift Trucks organised a demonstration of the highly manoeuvrable and compact CESAB Blitz 100 three-wheel forklift.

Alex Bailey, Health and Safety Coordinator, MTC Certech: "When it came to materials handling, the advice from Hitec Lift Trucks provided the answer. In demonstration the Blitz 100 worked effectively in every area of our operation."

Two CESAB Blitz 100 forklifts are now in full time use, with one fitted with extendable forks which can reach into any machine in the injection room, ensuring that tooling can be inserted into the machines safely and easily by the forklift rather than the operator.

When retracted to 700mm, the forks are shorter than normal truck forks, which makes the Blitz 100 invaluable in the kiln room where it can park next to the track rails around the kiln bed, which ensures loads are as close as possible to the kiln bed before being moved into place. Precision handling is improved because the side shift feature of the CESAB forklifts means that loads can be positioned precisely and more safely.

Productivity has been enhanced in other areas, with the Blitz 100 with extendable forks used by the despatch department. The retracted forks mean the truck can manoeuvre close to the back of lorries and load and unload goods efficiently.

Prospero Girardi, director of Hitec Lift Trucks: "This is an excellent example of how CESAB forklifts benefit both the business and its employees. Good materials handling practice makes all the difference in safety, productivity and business performance."