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Bumper Blocks, Friend or Foe?

Hoist Liftruck would like to inform our current and potential users about the benefits of using bumper blocks on masts in high impact situations.

Bumper blocks play an important role in dissipating the energy from a frontal impact. Referenced in the picture below, bumper blocks are bronze plates placed between the outer rail of the mast and the fork-lift's carriage. When properly installed, the bumper blocks prevent damage to mast rails, carriage and mast bearings, and mast mounts.

Hoist Liftruck's manufacturing expertise is derived from over 200 years of experience from the four companies that we own. With that experience, we are the industry experts on designing and manufacturing high capacity cushion and pneumatic tire forklifts.

It should be noted that improper bumper block installation could cause catastrophic failure. Bumper blocks should not be located on the inner mast weldment where they can potentially cause excessive friction between the carriage and inner mast resulting in the inner lifting out of sequence. Hoist designs locate bumper blocks on the outer mast weldment eliminating this possibility. Additionally, bumper blocks are not the only source of potential excessive friction that could result in the inner lifting out of sequence. Failed or worn carriage rollers (which properly located bumper blocks help prevent), worn or twisted mast rail, or a damaged carriage weldment could also cause excessive friction leading to an improper lift sequence.

The only definitive way to prevent the inner mast from disengaging from the outer is with the use of mechanical stop blocks between the inner and outer mast weldments.

For more information, contact your Hoist representative at 708.458.2200.