Summary

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

In addition, Australian Standard *AS2359.2-2013 Powered industrial trucks Part 2 Operation*, clause ***3.3 GENERAL RULES FOR OPERATION***, clause *(t)* states: "Trucks shall not be used for pulling, pushing, towing, etc., except with the prior approval of the manufacturer.*"*

Note: *Sit down counterbalance trucks may be equipped with a tow coupling / tow pin in the rear counterweight. There are typically provided so the truck can be safely towed when broken down and NOT for towing, UNLESS specified otherwise for such purpose by the truck manufacturer and on the nameplate on the truck.*

Australian Standard *AS2359.6-2013 Powered industrial trucks Part 6 Self-propelled industrial trucks, other than driverless truck, variable reach trucks and burden-carrier trucks (ISO 3691-1:2011, MOD)* clause ***4.12 Devices for towing*** states "*Trucks used for towing trailers shall be fitted with towing or coupling devices designed, constructed and arranged to reduce hazards of connection and disconnection and to prevent accidental disconnection during use."* And clause ***6.3 Marking, 6.3.1 Information plates, 6.3.1.1 Trucks*** states in i) if fitted, the maximum supporting force on the towing point connection, in newtons; and j) if fitted, the drawbar pull on the towing point connection, in newtons:.

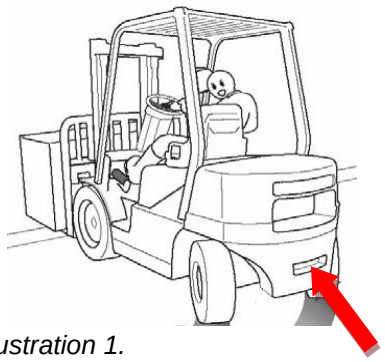

Illustration 1.

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 nameplate.

⚠ WARNING

Illustration 2.

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

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

"Trucks shall not be used for pulling, towing etc., except with the prior approval of the manufacturer."(AS2359.2-2013)

⚠ WARNING

- 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 disable lift truck faster that 2km/h.
- Do not allow riders on the lift truck being towed unless the operator can control the steering and / or braking.
- Connect the tow equipment as low as possible on the lift truck that is being towed.
- Keep the tow equipment angle to a minimum. Do not exceed a 30°angle from the straight ahead position.
- Quick lift truck movement could overload the tow equipment and cause it to break. Gradual and smooth lift truck movement will work better.
- Conduct risk assessment, consider tow equipment failure.

Towing instructions for moving a disabled lift truck

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.

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 or hydraulic brake.*

Before towing, make sure the towing equipment is in good condition and has enough strength for the towing situation involved. Satisfy yourself that the towing vehicle has enough brake capacity, weight and power, to control both tow vehicle and lift truck for the grade and the distance involved. To provide sufficient control and braking when moving a disabled lift truck downhill, a larger towing vehicle or additional tow vehicle connected to the rear of the lift truck could be required. This will reduce the risk of uncontrolled movement.

1. Block disabled lift truck wheels.
2. Fasten the tow equipment to the lift truck.
3. Release the parking brake.
4. Check that the service brake pedal is released.
5. Direction control lever is in neutral.
6. Remove the wheel blocks (if safe to do so).
7. Tow the lift truck slowly. Do not tow any faster than 2 km/h.