	Engineering Guidance Paper	Document AFITA-017	Page 1/2
	Use of Assistance Systems	Version Date 01.2025	Rev 3

SCOPE

This Guidance Note is intended to provide guidance to users of industrial trucks (forktrucks) of their responsibilities when specifying and installing additional sensing/assistance systems.

Typically, these systems are used to provide alerts to operator of proximity of objects/pedestrian, or conversely to alert pedestrians to the proximity of Industrial trucks.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE SYSTEMS

The industrial truck landscape has changed with the continuing focus on safety outcomes and separation/exclusion of pedestrians interacting with industrial trucks.

Examples of systems that can be classified as assistance systems:

- Travel Alarm
- Object detection systems (e.g. Ultrasonic sensors)
- Pedestrian Alert Systems
- Geofencing Systems (Auto speed control)
- Barrier/Zone Lighting

USER RESPONSIBILITY

When an assistance system is installed on an industrial truck the user must consider the potential impact of a system failure. Users must consider/implement administrative controls such as:


- Functional test as part of pre-start check.
- Training operators on the system.
- Operator training/coach to prevent reliance on system.

Assistance systems are intended to help the operator with the safe operation of the industrial truck and are not to be relied upon.

Australian Forklift and Industrial Truck Association

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Original Version date: 11/2018

	Engineering Guidance Paper	Document AFITA-017	Page 2/2
	Use of Assistance Systems	Version Date 01.2025	Rev 3

Assistance systems when in use long term may result in behavioural changes of the operator. Operators may incorrectly come to rely on the assistance system.

The operator still is responsible for ensuring pedestrian safety and following the users operating procedures and traffic management plan.

Assistance systems are not to be used in place of visual and other checking by the operator.

SYSTEM RESPONSE TO FAILURE

Assistance systems may fail during operation. Users should, as part of training when implementing an assistance system, be familiar with the response of the equipment if a failure occurs.

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11.10 WARNING DEVICES

Each truck shall be provided with an aural warning device (e.g. horn) that is actuated by the operator to warn pedestrians of the presence of the truck.

Where sensing systems (e.g. reversing sensors) are fitted, they shall warn the operator of a failure

Assistance system providers and installers should provide documentation on system function, operation and the maintenance regime.

END

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