



DiRECTIONS

Good for Wood



Customised Handling Solutions

Combilift is the world's leading supplier of 4-way handling solutions, offering lift capacities from 2.5 to 25 tonnes, with a choice of diesel, AC electric or LPG power. Versatility, reliability, safer and space saving handling are hallmarks of the Combilift range, which is contributing to improved productivity and efficiency across a wide range of industries. In this newsletter we focus on the benefits that Combilift is bringing to the wood and lumber sector.



With the ongoing addition of more models to its range, Combilift continues to blaze the trail in the 4-way and narrow aisle handling sector. There are now over 14,500 units in operation worldwide, with an extensive global dealership network across more than 50 countries. The timber sector was one of the first to recognise the benefits of Combilift's tailor-made approach to materials handling, and the range of products on offer is as varied as the differing requirements in the industry itself. Whether you handle extreme lengths of engineered timber, timber frames, palletised goods or a mix of merchants' products, there is a Combilift model that

can deliver the goods. "Our ability to react to customer feedback and develop handling solutions of any size is what sets us apart from other forklift manufacturers", comments MD Martin McVicar. "Since we launched our first C4000 Combilift – which is incidentally still one of our best sellers – we now offer models from 2.5t upwards with an almost infinite choice of options for a truly customised product. Our range encompasses 4-way sideloaders, stand-on models for extremely narrow aisle operation, the large cab XL series as well as the core Combilift C range in varying load capacities.

From heavy duty operation in the harsh environments of sawmills to the precision manufacturing of furniture and staircases – there is a Combilift model to suit your requirements. Read how customers in the timber sector have successfully used Combilift to solve their handling issues in this "Directions" newsletter.

Tailor-made for Weyerhaeuser



Weyerhaeuser, the world's leading manufacturer of engineered lumber products took delivery of Combilift's 10,000th machine in 2009. Many of Weyerhaeuser's

loads are as long as 20m, and having identified the Combilift concept as the answer to handling such challenging products, it now operates 130 Combilifts across its sites in North America. The trucks play a key role in the company's commitment to the safest material handling procedures and excellent productivity, and were designed specifically for their requirements. A raft of features designed to ease the handling of extreme loads and to make life easier for drivers have been integrated into the 5 and 10 t trucks: a larger operator cab, containers for tools fixed to the body of the truck, and an integrated side shifting mast which caters for the varying dimensions of product. Combilift's customised approach has proved to be such a success that Weyerhaeuser has embarked on a program to phase out all other types of conventional forklifts at its distribution centres and replace them with Combilift models.

Lateral Thinking

The 4-way SL series was developed following requests from conventional sideloader users for a more manoeuvrable truck able to provide better storage density and block stack whilst working in pre-existing aisle widths. Combilift sideloaders are available with capacities from 4.5 to 6t, a wide range of options and a choice of front or rear cabs.



Rear cab



Pinewood Structure's 5t SL handles 12m lengths of engineered wood, heavy packs of timber and bulky roof trusses



Front exit option



Schneider-Holz, a 100 year old family concern is one of the top ten timber companies in Germany. It operates a mixed fleet of 5t, 6t and 8t diesel powered Combilifts at its premises in the south of the country.

Schneider-Holz's Versatile Fleet

The trucks were chosen for their versatility to work across the extensive 8 ha site in the outdoor storage facilities, within the narrow confines of the undercover areas as well as the drying chambers. Director Hans Peter Schneider explains the rationale for replacing conventional electric sideloaders with the 4-way diesel Combilifts: "We handle the equivalent of 700t of product a day – enough to build around 40 timber houses, so we need robust, reliable and productive workhorses which are also capable of manoeuvring even the most extreme lengths of timber which are around 18m. Battery power is also not ideally suited for our very intensive three shift operation and battery maintenance on the old fleet was time consuming and expensive. The Combilifts can be tanked up in no time and cope effortlessly with the demands of an operation such as ours that is continually growing. They are an indispensable part of our business."

Timbmet's Pick and Mix

The wide range of Combilift models in operation under one roof could hardly be matched by UK timber supplier Timbmet. Eleven C5000s, ten of which were built with a specially designed raised cab, have enabled quicker transportation of double packs of timber whilst retaining a clear line of vision for the driver. As 35 HGVs need to be offloaded every day, this increased operational speed has been a major benefit. Three Combi-CBs handle Timbmet's short width packs of timber as

well as flooring and they also work inside containers, unloading around 10 of these daily. Three C3500s work in the picking area, and two TeleCombis with a telescopic boom are used for faster one sided offloading of continental tilt trailers. This LPG powered mixed fleet has proved ideal for handling the wide range of hardwoods, timber, sheet materials, flooring and other assorted products in the 200,000ft² depot.



More CBs

The launch of the original 2.5t Combi-CB was so successful that new models have been developed to offer a wider range of applications for this award winning compact counterbalance design truck. Lift capacities of 3 and 4t are now available with the additional option of electric power on the 2.5 and 3t models.



The CB's ability to turn on its axis has boosted storage and productivity at staircase and balustrade manufacturer Richard Burbidge



Timbmet's CBs stack packs of flooring from the ground up for space saving in the warehouse

Doubling Up Space

Four Combilift sideloaders and cantilever racking with guided aisles have replaced a free stacking system at Rix Shipping, and Director James Doyle calculates that storage capacity has since been doubled. He comments: "This new facility for our client Stora Enso Timber UK Ltd is the main UK entry point for all of its timber products from Europe and is now one of the most efficient timber terminals on the East coast." The 6t diesel powered SLs were identified as the most suitable models from Combilift's range, due to their speed for the long runs needed to take packs of timber from the quayside to the warehouse. Their ability to operate in aisle-widths of just 2.4m was a further bonus. Fitted with a 7.5m triplex mast they enable easy picking from the top levels of the racking, and hydraulic fork positioners allow for quick and easy adjustment of the forks for loads of varying size. On average the trucks load 20 trailers a day for onward distribution, as well as transporting all the incoming timber offloaded from the ships to the storage facilities.

Rix Shipping's terminal at the port of Hull handles around 300,000 m³ of timber products a year and a watertight and space saving handling system is key to operational efficiency.



A Boost for Storage

The C4000 was Combilift's first model and is still the core product of the range, popular with companies of any size. Chiltern Timber is a classic case of a smaller operation reaping the benefits of its versatility and manoeuvrability. Proprietor Gerry Barton had been through quite a collection of forklift trucks but the C4000 has proved to be the solution for handling its wide selection of sheet material, timber, builders merchants' and DIY supplies and has enabled storage capacity to be increased by 30%. The 13,000 ft² storage area is relatively tight for the volume of stock and the ability to cut aisle widths to almost half their size in the undercover area and stack to 5m in the outdoor cantilever racking is a real boost. "At one point we thought we may have to look at larger premises due to the constraints on space," says Gerry, "but the Combilift has enabled us to stay put and avoid the considerable costs associated with moving."



Q: Where in the World Can You Find a Combilift? A: Almost Anywhere!



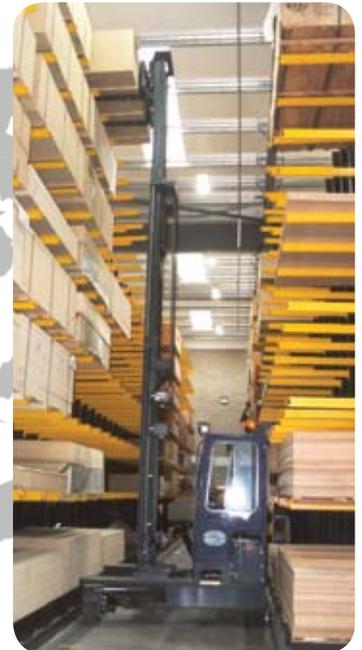
Arctic Circle



Australia



Thailand



England



Shetland Islands



Germany



USA

Combi-CB Display Team Pulls in the Crowds

The Combi-CB display team made its debut when this compact truck was launched at an event to mark Combilift's 10th anniversary. The drivers devised a routine where the trucks dance in and around each other, at times with just inches to spare, which demonstrates the CB's extraordinary manoeuvrability as well as their precision driving skills. Since then the drivers have developed ever more complicated routines which have been a major attraction on Combilift's trade fair stands around Europe. If you can't catch them live in action check out the videos on YouTube.



Don't try this at home!

FREE warehouse layout service. Combilift's team of design engineers will analyse your requirements and supply you with free plans, enabling you to make the most of your space. Please call your Combilift contact for information.