

## **Telehandler / Zoom Boom**

Used Telehandler BC - Telehandlers are commonly known by a variety of names such as Cherry pickers, telescopic handlers, boom lifts and teleporters. This industrial machine is commonly used in a variety of industries and in agriculture. Similar to a crane and a forklift as it has a boom allowing it to extend forwards and upwards. The operator can utilize a variety of attachments at the end of the articulating boom to complete different jobs. Common attachments include pallet forks, a winch, a bucket or a muck grab. The most common telehandler attachment is the pallet forks. Pallet forks enable the operator to move loads to and from a variety of locations that would otherwise be considered unreachable with a standard forklift. These machines enable cargo pallets to be unloaded and loaded from a trailer and placed on rooftops, racking or other high and hard to access locations. Often, high rooftop locations would need a crane although, telehandlers can accomplish these tasks much more efficiently. Of course, it isn't always affordable or practical to use secondary equipment or a crane to complete certain tasks. Within agriculture, the bucket or bucket grab is among the most popular attachments. Relocating items from hard to reach areas that cannot rely on a wheeled loader or a backhoe loader give telehandlers a significant advantage. For instance, these industrial machines can directly access a hopper or trailer with high sides; applications that would otherwise rely on a conveyor, loading ramp or similar equipment. Using one machine to finish numerous jobs saves storage space, money and time. Telehandler units often work together with a crane jib. Many attachments can be used such as power booms, grain and dirt buckets and rotators. Three-point linkage and power take-off can be used with agricultural models to make this machine particularly capable. Interestingly enough, the machines' main advantage is also its' biggest limitation. The boom acts as a lever when it extends or raises with heavy loads. Despite significant counterweights in the rear, the telehandler can be subject to instability at times, decreasing the lifting capacity as the working radius or distance between the center of the load and the front of the wheels increases. When a telehandler functions as a single boom loader (as opposed to twin arms) and carrying a heavy load, there can be a potential for weakness even in the best designs. A machine with a 5K lb. capacity could safely lift 400 lbs. while fully extended using a retracted low boom angle. The same piece of equipment with a five thousand pound lift capacity and retracted boom may be capable as supporting up to ten thousand pounds once the boom is raised to seventy degrees. Monitoring the angle, weight and boom height, there are load charts on this equipment to outline which tasks can be safely conducted. Updated telehandler models have computers and sensors. The operator cannot continue once the machine's limits have been reached. They are warned and cut off from accessing the control input. There are front stabilizers that can drastically enhance the machine's lifting capacity while it is stationary. A stabilizing rotary joint between the upper and lower frames may be called a mobile crane that can use a bucket. There are many models of telehandlers differing in size, weight, boom designs and reach. Telehandlers fall into the compact category if the unit weighs in at 11,000 lbs. or less. Compact models feature a two- stage boom design in comparison to the three or four boom design that is common with larger units. A low pivot boom ensures better operator visibility for transporting loads on compact units. Compact models are skinnier and have thinner dimensions. The reach capacity for compact units is between thirteen to twenty feet and these units offer a lift capacity from five to seven thousand pounds. These versatile machines make the compact telehandler extremely popular. This machine can be utilized for carrying tools or as a pick and place unit. This machine is often used in locations that are cramped and tight. Residential services are often employed during framing and for jobs with height restrictions. These machines can facilitate internal building access. Compact units are popular in multi-story construction, nurseries, strip malls, landscaping, masonry, garage facilities and erecting steel among other applications. Farming and agri-business applications often rely on telehandlers to accomplish many tasks. Telehandlers are made with two or four-wheel drive as well as crab steering. This machine can traverse longer distances with two-wheel drive at higher speeds to facilitate easy

travel between worksites. Four-wheel drive units can travel over harder terrain while offering a tighter turning radius. Crab steering enhances the units' maneuverability while allowing each set of wheels to move forty-five degrees to the right or left. Compact telehandlers have varying cab environments. There is a rollover protective cage to enhance safety on less expensive models. Higher-end models are equipped with a fully enclosed cab, a heater, windshield wiper and defroster. All compact telehandler cabs are spacious to accommodate the operator as comfortable as possible. Additional features such as cup holders, air conditioning, tilt steering, suspension seats and satellite radio are all options. Many high-pressure hydraulics and high-flow auxiliary hydraulics operate the numerous attachments. The different attachments allow the machine to be capable of many options. All of these attachments enable the machine to conduct a variety of jobs. Compact units are more commonly utilized for ground engaging jobs. It is simple to transform a compact telehandler into a mini excavator with a bucket attachment. There are popular attachments including brooms for sweeping, truss booms for extended reach, side-shifting and rotating fork carriages, heavy and light-duty buckets, augers for planting trees or digging holes and many items. Skid steer attachments are being made for versatility and other compact telehandler designs.