

An apparatus for transferring a loading space

5 The present invention relates to an apparatus for transferring a loading space to a vehicle and away from the vehicle, which apparatus has an L-shaped piece, at an upper end of whose vertical arm there is located a gripping hook and at a rear end of whose horizontal arm or its extension there is located a transverse turning shaft, around which the L-shaped piece may be turned by an actuator, whereby the gripping hook may be turned around a transverse shaft relative to 10 the vertical arm of the L-shaped piece during the transfer movement of the loading space, and the hook portion of the gripping hook may be turned relative to the vertical arm of the L-shaped piece and to a projection on the arm or on the extension of the arm so that the projection at a certain 15 position of the gripping hook is at least partially in front of the open gap of the gripping hook and in another position leaves the open gap of the hook at least mainly open.

20 In Finnish publication print 86977 a loading device has been described, on the vertical arm of whose angle piece there is a projection, and the hook portion of the gripping hook may be turned relative to the vertical arm and the projection. In the transporting position, the projection closes the gap of 25 the hook, and when the hook is turned upside down, the projection leaves the gap open. The projection thus functions as an automatic safety lock.

30 However, on platforms according to platform standards used in different countries, the gripping arch on the front wall of the platform, from which arch the gripping hook grips the platform, is located at different heights. The aforementioned previously known hooking device is not applicable to handling such two platforms as such, the gripping arches of which are 35 at different heights. If the device is used for handling such a platform, whose gripping arch is located higher than the height for which the device is actually intended, the hook portion is suspended during the handling at some stages too low relative to the height of the platform to be handled.

In this case, the lower edge of the platform collides with the intermediate frame of the the device. Similarly, the platform cannot remain in a correct tipped position during the tipping, if the the gripping arch of the platform is located on the platform too high relative to the hook position.

The object of the present invention is to eliminate this drawback. The apparatus of the invention is characterized in that the vertical arm of the L-shaped piece or the extension of the arm is provided with a means, which may, when so needed, be placed to prevent the turning of the hook portion into its position closest to the upper end of the vertical arm of the L-piece.

The solution of the invention is very simple and readily to be realized. By means thereof, the same load handling apparatus may be used on platforms according to the standards of two different countries, although the platforms have a gripping arch at different heights.

The invention and its details are described in more detail in the following with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

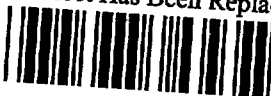
Fig. 1 shows an apparatus of the invention in different positions;

Fig. 2 shows a body portion of a hook and a hook portion separated from each other;

Fig. 3 shows a detail of the apparatus of the invention together with such a demountable platform, whose gripping arch is located lower; and

Fig. 4 shows the same apparatus in connection with such a demountable platform, in which the gripping arch is located higher.

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Fig. 1 shows a loading device in different positions. The loading device itself is known per se, e.g. such a device as has been described in Finnish patent publication 63359. The loading apparatus has a rear frame 2 turning around the rearmost transverse articulated shaft 1, a middle frame 4 turnably fixed around a transverse shaft 3 at its front end, as well as an L-shaped piece 6 turnably fixed around a transverse articulated shaft 5 to the front end of the middle frame. In this case, the articulated shaft 5 is fitted to the rear end of a horizontal arm 7 of the L-piece 6. Moving the parts around the pivots 1, 3 and 5 occurs by actuators or hydraulic cylinder piston devices 8 and 9. A gripping hook 11 is located on the upper end of the vertical arm of the L-piece.

The loading of a demountable platform 13 on the ground 12 to the vehicle occurs so that the middle frame 4 with its L-piece 6 is turned around the shaft 3 backwards and the gripping hook 11 is fitted into a gripping link or arch 14 on the upper part of the front edge of the platform 13. Thereafter, the middle frame with its L-piece is turned back to the front. The curved portion of the movement path of the gripping hook is designated with a dash-and-dot line 15. At the front edge of the movement path there is located a horizontal portion, which is achieved by turning the L-piece around the shaft 5. Lowering the platform from a vehicle to the ground occurs in a reversed order.

Fig. 1 shows by means of the L-piece uppermost in the figure also a tipping position, whereby the rear and middle frames 2 and 4 of the loading device are locked rigidly as an extension to another.

In the apparatus of the invention, the gripping hook 11 is comprised of a hook body 16 and of a tip turnably fixed thereto around a transverse pivot 17, i.e. of a hook portion 18 itself. As shown in Fig. 1, the hook portion 18 may turn, as the L-piece turns, backwards from the pivot 17 relative to the hook frame and downwards by the action of its own weight.

and/or the weight of a demountable platform suspended on the hook. The hook body 16 is fixed rigidly e.g. by means of two bolts to a vertical piece of the L-piece, or it may also be integral with the vertical arm.

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10 A more detailed structure and design of the hook body 16 and the hook portion 18 are apparent from Fig 2. There is a hole 19 in the front part of the upper end of the hook body 16 for a pivot pin. There is a projection 24 on the hook body behind the articulated point 19. Correspondingly, there is a hole 23 at the upper end of the front part of the hook portion 18, through which the pivot pin to be fixed to the hole 19 of the hook body is fitted. When the hook portion 18 is turned around its pivot back and downwards, the projection 24 of the
15 hook body 16 is positioned at an open gap of the hook and closes the gap. The gripping arch of the platform then remains in position in the gap. This safety lock area has been indicated in Fig. 2 by a curve 21.

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In the final step of the lowering, the L-piece 6 and the hook body 16 are turned upside down (in Fig. 1 shown in the most extreme position to the right). The hook body 16 has then turned relative to the freely downwards suspending hook portion 18 so that the projection 24 leaves the gap of the
25 hook open and the hook may be detached from the arch 14 of the platform.

A spring 25, which pushes the hook portion towards the open position, when the load weight does not affect the hook, is
30 fixed between the hook portion 18 and the hook body 16. This facilitates the fixing to the platform and the removal thereof. The force of the spring is sufficient to push an unloaded hook into an extreme position, but it has not enough strength to transfer a loaded hook. The hook body is comprised of two
35 side plates, between which both the hook portion 18 and the spring 25 are located. The projections 24 are located on the side plates of the hook body 16.

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The facts described in the above are known from Finnish publication print 86977.

5 In order to use the device also in connection with such platforms, in which the gripping arch 14 is located higher, there is a hole 22 in the hook body 16, into which hole a support shaft may be inserted, when so desired.

10 Fig. 3 shows the device of the invention without a support shaft, whereby the hook portion is capable of turning freely backwards. The device is then used for platforms, whose gripping arch is located at a lower position.

15 In Fig. 4, the support shaft 26 is in turn inserted into the hole 22. The support shaft may be locked into the hole in any known manner. This support shaft supports the hook portion 18 and prevents it from turning into its lowermost position. In this way, the device may be applied to be used for platforms, whose gripping arch is located at a higher position.

20 In the application of Fig. 1, the horizontal transfer of the load is achieved by turning the L-piece 6 around the shaft 5. A corresponding transfer movement may also be realized by transferring the L-piece telescopically relative to the middle frame 4.

25 Both above and in the following patent claims words "front end/rear end", "upper end/lower end" as well as "vertical portion/horizontal portion" have been used. These refer to the position of said parts in the transporting position of the loading device, i.e. the position of the L-piece shown in the extreme position on the left in Fig. 1.

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Claims

1. An apparatus for transferring a loading space (13) to a vehicle and away from the vehicle, which apparatus has an L-shaped piece (6), at an upper end of whose vertical arm (10) there is located a gripping hook (11) and at the rear end of whose horizontal arm or its extension (4) there is located a transverse turning shaft (3), around which the L-shaped piece may be turned by an actuator (8), whereby the gripping hook (11) may be turned around a transverse shaft (17) relative to the vertical arm (10) of the L-shaped piece (6) during the transfer movement of loading space, and the hook portion (18) of the gripping hook may be turned relative to the vertical arm (10) of the L-shaped piece (6) or to a projection (24) on the extension (16) of the arm so that the projection at a certain position of the gripping hook (11) is at least partially in front of the open gap of the gripping hook (11) and in another position leaves the open gap of the hook at least mainly open, characterized in that the vertical arm (10) of the L-shaped piece (6) or the extension (16) of the arm is provided with a means (26), which may be placed in position so that it limits the turning of the hook portion (18) into its position closest to the lower end of the vertical arm of the L-piece allowing only the initial part of the turning movement; or it may alternatively be removed, whereby it allows the turning of the hook portion into said extreme position closest to the lower end of the vertical arm of the L-shaped piece.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the means (26) restricting the turning of the hook portion (18) is a transverse horizontal rod.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 2, characterized in that the rod (26) preventing the turning of the hook portion (18) may be detached from the vertical arm (10) or from the extension (16) of the arm.

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4. An apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the vertical arm (10) or the extension (16) of the arm is provided with a hole (22), into which the rod (26) restricting the turning of the hook portion may be inserted.

5. Apparatus for transferring a load (13) onto and off a vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a loading device comprising a base (4) and an arm (10) which are arranged in a generally L-shaped configuration, a hook (18) pivotably mounted on the free end of the arm (10) for hooking onto the load (13), and a pivot (3) at the free end of the base (4) for pivoting the loading device relative to the vehicle;

wherein the hook (18) is arranged to pivot, relative to the arm (10), from a first to a second angular position as the load is lifted and dragged onto the vehicle by the loading device;

characterized in that the apparatus further comprises a selectably actuable stop means (26) for stopping pivoting of the hook (18) at a third angular position which is intermediate the first and second angular positions.

6. Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the stop means (26) comprises a stop member (26) positionable across the path of movement of the hook (18) between the first and second angular positions.

7. Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the stop member (26) is removably insertable in apertures (22) in the arm (10), the apertures (22) being positioned on respective sides of the path of movement of the hook (18) between the first and second angular positions.

8. Apparatus according to any of claims 5 to 7, wherein the arm (10) is shaped so as to block unhooking of the load (13) from the hook (18) when the hook is in the second and third angular positions.

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