Claims

We claim:

1. A lifting device for supporting and lifting a dunnage conversion machine, the lifting device comprising:

a base frame;

an upright support having a base portion that is fixed relative to the base frame and a movable portion that is axially movable relative the base portion between a lower position and an upper position vertically higher than the lower position;

a lifting unit connected to the movable portion of the upright support to raise and lower the movable portion relative to the base frame between the lower position and the upper position; and

one or more forklift brackets having have an interface for attaching to the dunnage conversion machine;

wherein said one or more forklift brackets have an opening to receive a fork of a forklift; and

wherein the upright support is configured to be attached to the dunnage conversion machine.

2. The lifting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base frame is configured to be removably mounted to a portable cart.

3. The lifting device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the base portion of the upright support is fixed to the base frame and the movable portion is telescopically movable relative to the base portion.

4. The lifting device as claimed in claim 1 or any of claims 2 and 3, wherein the base frame includes a pair of spaced apart feet with an upright support attached to each of the feet.

5. The lifting device as claimed in claim 1 or any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the upright support includes a pair of parallel, spaced apart upright supports.

6. The lifting device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the lifting unit is mounted to the base frame between the upright supports.

7. The lifting device as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6, wherein a distal end of each of the upright supports is connected by lifting cross member, and the lifting unit is coupled to the pair of upright supports by the lifting cross member.

8. The lifting device as claimed in claim 7, wherein lifting unit is mounted between the base frame and the lifting cross member.

9. The lifting device as claimed in claim 5 or any of claims 6 to 8, further comprising a machine interface bracket at a distal end of each of the upright supports, and the machine interface bracket has an interface for attaching to the dunnage conversion machine.

10. The lifting device as claimed in claim 1 or any of claims 2 to 9, wherein the lifting unit is hydraulic.

11. The lifting device as claimed in claim 1 or any of claims 2 to 10, further comprising a cart having a horizontal support platform, and the base frame is mounted to the horizontal support platform.

12. The lifting device as claimed in claim 11, where the lifting device is mounted within a footprint defined by the horizontal support platform.

13. A method for supporting and lifting a dunnage conversion machine, comprising the steps of:

preparing the dunnage conversion machine to interface with a lifting device;

positioning the lifting device underneath a dunnage conversion machine;

connecting the dunnage conversion machine to a machine interface bracket of the lifting device;

raising the machine interface bracket from a lower position to an upper position; and

lowering the machine interface bracket from the upper position to the lower position;

wherein the preparing step includes connecting one or more forklift brackets to the dunnage conversion machine and moving the dunnage conversion machine using forks of a forklift to engage the forklift brackets.

14. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the preparing step includes mounting the lifting device to a movable cart.

15. The method as claimed in claim 13 or claim 14, comprising the step of moving the dunnage conversion machine to a preferred location by use of the movable cart.

16. The method as claimed in claim 13 or any of claims 14 and 15, wherein the connecting step occurs before the positioning step.

17. The method as claimed in claim 13 or any of claims 14 to 16, wherein the connecting step occurs before the raising step.

18. The method as claimed in claim 13 or any of claims 14 to 17, wherein the connecting step occurs before the lowering step.