

4. Dock Leveller

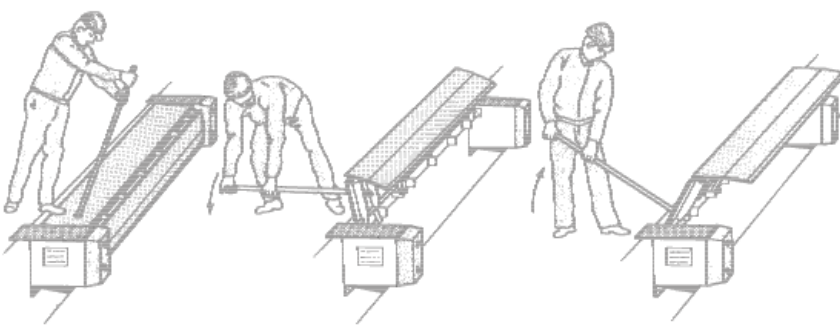
Before you choose the type and dimensions of the dock leveller, we would advise you to make an inventory of external transport vehicles, goods to be loaded and unloaded and internal transport vehicles. This information is essential for selecting the dock leveller most suitable for your application.

Mini dock leveller

The mini dockleveller is the alternative for traditional pit systems and ideal to quickly and easy bridge small differences in height in a cost-effective manner.

The mini-dock leveller can be simply mounted against an existing bay. (Ramp model MDL-R)

Using the operation bar the lip can be positioned on the truck floor within a matter of seconds. When the truck moves away the lip automatically falls between the mounted dock bumper consoles, ready for the next truck.



Type of dock leveller

Our hydraulic-electrical docklevellers are used in order to bridge the difference in height and distance between the loading bay and the vehicle floor as efficient as possible. The dockleveller ensures an optimal connection between the lip or sliding and the vehicle bed. During loading and unloading the dockleveller will automatically follow each up and down (suspension) movement and due to the lateral flexibility the dockleveller will follow the 'tilting' movements of the vehicle as well.

You can choose between a dock leveller with hinged lip (DLH) or a dock leveller with telescopic slide (DLE). For more information and specifications of these standard dock levellers, you can view the product sheets. These can be found on our website under the heading: "dock levellers".

Length of Dock Leveller

The length of the dock leveller is determined by the maximum acceptable gradient which is governed by the internal transport and type of load. With a greater difference in levels between the truck floor and the building floor the dock leveller must be increased in length to reduce the gradient. The legal admissible gradient is 12,5%.

The permitted gradients:	Hand pallet	max. 5,0 %
	Electrical pallet truck	max 7,0 %
	Electrical fork lift truck	max 10,0 %
	Diesel/gas fork lift truck	max 12,5 %

You also have to pay attention to the effective working range of a dock leveller. If the working range of a leveller is 300mm above and below platform height and the height of a dock is 1250 mm, trucks with a floor height of 950 to 1550 mm can be (un)loaded.

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Width of the dock leveller

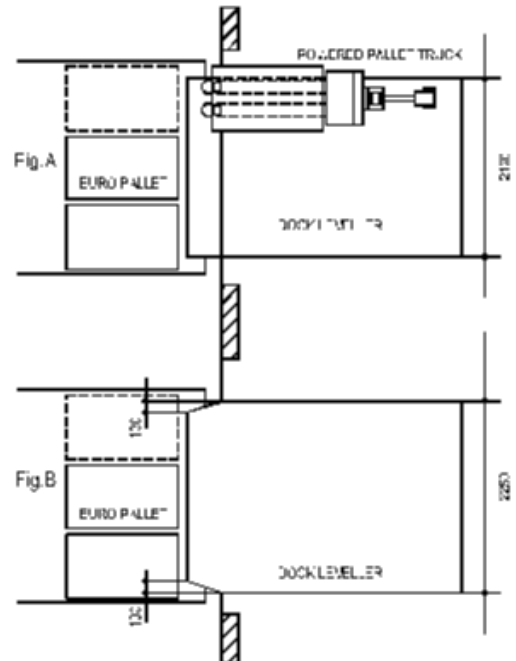
The dock levellers are available with a width of 2000mm or 2250mm. The correct width depends on your situation / application. The width will be chosen in relation to:

- The measurements of the vehicles;
- The type of goods to be loaded;
- The internal means of transport.

We recommend you choose the width as big as possible, because it simplifies the placing of the loads. Especially below dock, when the available space is limited by the sides of the pit.

For pallets that are loaded with electric or hand pallet trucks, the minimum width of 2100 mm is necessary and a width of 2250 mm is recommended for some situations (see fig A).

An optional tapered lip can make it possible to load and unload smaller vehicles or vehicles positioned off-centre and this is recommended for a dock leveller with a width of 2250 mm (see fig B).



Load capacity of dock leveller

To determine the necessary maximal capacity, the maximal weights (~train weight) of the internal transport vehicle + driver + heaviest load that are used on the dock levellers must be known.

The dock levellers are CE certified and conform EN 1389-1:2008 and are suitable for use under the following "standard" conditions:

- Maximum gradient of the platform 12,5 %;
- Minimum contact area per wheel of 150 * 150 mm on the platform;
- Maximum driving speed lengthways 7 km/h;
- One shift per day.

The following exceptional conditions will require a heavier capacity of the dock leveller:

- Driving at high speeds often involving abrupt braking on the dock;
- Internal transportation vehicles with small wheels;
- Very intensive multi shifts usage.

In all these cases, it is wise to contact us first to determine which dock leveller should apply for your situation.

Pit systems

The dock leveller is available for different pit systems. These pit designs are universal and can be applied to any type of dock leveller.

More information about the various pit systems can be found on our website under "dock levellers".