

A Smarter Lifter Boosts Workplace Safety

Lifting can be a dangerous thing.

The Centers for Disease Control reports that [soft tissue injuries are common](#) with manual material handling. And the cost of injuries to employers is alarming: In 2017, the total [cost of work injuries in the U.S. was \\$161.5 billion](#). Lost work time, and the cost of investigating injuries and writing up injury reports, accounted for \$12.6 billion of that total.

There are a lot of these work injuries, too: In 2017 alone, there were [111,000 back injuries](#) that caused employees to miss work.

We won't bore you with any more numbers—let's just say that the repetitive lifting of heavy objects often causes injuries, which in turn decreases productivity and costs your business money.

The solution: Lifters that use vacuum engineering to reduce the strain on workers' bodies. The newest vacuum lifters take advantage of innovative technology that:

- Makes them more portable and versatile.
- Increases the quality and durability.
- Knows what operators want before they want it.
- Alerts users to problems.

Sounds an awful lot like the evolution of cell phones, doesn't it? Read on to find out how "smart" vacuum lifters increase workplace safety and productivity while saving money.

Vacuum Lifters: Raising the Bar in Material Handling

Operations managers all over the U.S. are using vacuum lifters for material handling, but these lifters can cause problems of their own. For example, if the airflow stops for any reason and the vacuum lifter drops the carton, a crushed foot can be the result. Is moving from injured backs to other injured parts really that much of an improvement?

The good news is that now there are "smart" vacuum lifters that reduce the risk of injury even more than the original lifters. For example, the new SmartLifter from Schmalz, which was introduced at [PACK EXPO](#) 2019, grips boxes from two sides—doubling the security while needing only fingertip pressure from the worker to get the carton moving.

Reducing injuries isn't the only way advanced vacuum lifters like the SmartLifter help save money: They also reduce the amount of manpower you need, so you can get more work done with less labor. Boxes that take two people to move can now be handled by just one worker and the SmartLifter.

Smart Tools for Industry 4.0

With the [digitization of industry](#), factory floors and warehouses are getting even safer. Products like the SmartLifter are called "smart" because they use innovative tech tools to automatically steady an unbalanced load, alert the user when the airflow is compromised—letting them avoid

dropped cartons—and understand the operator's intentions. These advancements let operators easily place cartons on stacks as high as eight or nine feet.

Vacuum lifters are becoming more portable even as they're packed with more and more technology. The SmartLifter is mounted on a base that can be easily moved with a pallet jack or fork truck when floor layouts change. For greater range of use, the SmartLifter can even be underhung from a monorail.

The SmartLifter from Schmalz is the result of extensive testing and investing—and it shows in the quality and durability that thousands of operations managers and workers rely on every day. To find out how the SmartLifter can help you improve ergonomics and increase workplace safety, contact your local area sales manager or our technical support team: 919-713-0880 or schmalz@schmalz.us