Receiving instructions:

After delivery, remove the packaging from the product. Inspect the product closely to determine whether it sustained damage during transport. If damage is discovered, record a complete description of it on the bill of lading. If the product is undamaged, discard the packaging.

NOTE: The end-user is solely responsible for confirming that product design, use, and maintenance comply with laws, regulations, codes, and mandatory standards applied where the product is used.

Replacement Parts and Technical Assistance:

For answers to questions not addressed in these instructions and to order replacement parts, labels, and accessories, call our Technical Service and Parts Department at (260) 665-7586. The department can also be contacted online at http://www.vestilmfg.com/parts_info.htm.
Signal Words:
This manual classifies personal injury risks and situations that could lead to property damage with SIGNAL WORDS. A safety message appears with a signal word that describes an improper/dangerous use of the product. The signal word indicates the seriousness of the injury that could result from the described use.

**WARNING** Identifies a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **COULD** result in DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY.

**NOTICE** Identifies practices likely to result in product/property damage, such as operation that might damage the product.

Each person who assembles, installs, uses, or maintains this product should read the entire manual in advance and fully understand the directions. If after reading the manual you do not understand an instruction, ask your supervisor or employer for clarification, because failure to adhere to the directions in this manual might result in serious personal injury.

Hazards of Improper Use:
Vestil strives to identify foreseeable hazards associated with the use of its products. However, no manual can address every conceivable risk. The most effective way to avoid injury from misusing this product is to exercise sound judgment whenever the HOOK-BASE is in use.

**WARNING** Improper or careless use of this product might result in serious personal injuries.

- **Read and understand the entire manual before assembling, installing, using or servicing the product.** Read the manual to refresh your understanding of proper use and maintenance procedures whenever necessary.
- **DO NOT exceed the 4,000 lb. (1,818.2kg) capacity/maximum rated load.** See Label 287 on product; also see [Labeling Diagram](#) on p. 9.
- **Inspect the product before each use following the instructions in Inspections & Maintenance on p. 9.** DO NOT use the HOOK-BASE unless it is in normal condition.
- **Before attaching the HOOK-BASE to the coupler of a piece of towable equipment, inspect the coupler and latch.** Confirm that all parts are in good condition. **DO NOT** use the HOOK-BASE to tow equipment UNLESS the coupler seats onto the correct ball hitch and latches properly. **ONLY USE THE HOOK-BASE TO PUSH TOWED EQUIPMENT.** **DO NOT PULL EQUIPMENT WITH THIS DEVICE!**
- Whenever using the load hook, always test the soundness of the connection between the hook and the suspended load before transporting the load. Lift the load a few inches above the ground. Load swing should be minimal and the load should not shift. If the load is not stable while suspended, return it to the ground and adjust the load rigging.
- **Minimize load swing.** Position the lifting hook directly above the center of the top of the load; then attach the load to the hook with appropriate rigging and slowly raise the load.
- **DO NOT remove or obscure any label.**
- **Verify the placement and legibility of all labels shown in the Labeling Diagram on p. 9.** DO NOT use this device UNLESS all product labels are easily readable and undamaged.
- **DO NOT ride, or sit, on the HOOK-BASE.**
- **DO NOT use the HOOK-BASE to tow anything while people are onboard.**
- **DO NOT use the lifting hook to lift any apparatus that supports people, such as a work platform.**
- **DO NOT leave towed equipment attached to the HOOK-BASE.** Properly immobilize the equipment (e.g. with wheel chocks) and disengage it from the towing attachment when towing is finished.
- **DO NOT leave suspended loads unattended.** Always disengage any load suspended from the lifting hook before leaving it unattended.
- **DO NOT modify the HOOK-BASE without written approval from Vestil.** **Unauthorized modifications automatically void the Limited Warranty (p. 10) and might make the HOOK-BASE unsafe to use.**
- **ONLY raise the forks as high as necessary to put the trailer in a horizontal (level) position for towing.**
- If using the hoist hook attachment to lift loads, only raise the forks as high as necessary to raise the load off of the ground and to avoid contact with objects in the path of travel.
- **DO NOT use the HOOK-BASE to transport anything but trailers or equipment designed to be towed.** The towing attachment, e.g. ball or pintle hook, should match the towing adapter on the trailer or other towable equipment.
- **Use this HOOK-BASE consistently with the fork truck training you received.**
- **DO NOT use the unit UNLESS all product labels are easily readable and undamaged.** See [Labeling Diagram](#) on p. 9.
Specifications:
Dimensions and other specifications of each standard model HOOK-BASE appear in the diagrams and tables below and on pages 4 & 5.

![Diagram of HOOK-BASE](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Net Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-32</td>
<td>40&quot;</td>
<td>36&quot;</td>
<td>32(\frac{7}{8})&quot;</td>
<td>0.77&quot;</td>
<td>19.91&quot;</td>
<td>4,000 lb.</td>
<td>88 lb. (40kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-38</td>
<td>46&quot;</td>
<td>42&quot;</td>
<td>38(\frac{7}{8})&quot;</td>
<td>0.74&quot;</td>
<td>23.08&quot;</td>
<td>4,000 lb.</td>
<td>96 lb. (43.6 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-44</td>
<td>52&quot;</td>
<td>48&quot;</td>
<td>44(\frac{7}{8})&quot;</td>
<td>0.72&quot;</td>
<td>26.23&quot;</td>
<td>4,000 lb.</td>
<td>105 lb. (47.7 kg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOOK-BASE only—No towing or lifting attachments.

![Diagram of HOOK-BASE with 3-Ball Hitch Attachment](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Net Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-32</td>
<td>42(\frac{7}{16})&quot;</td>
<td>40&quot;</td>
<td>36&quot;</td>
<td>37(\frac{7}{16})&quot;</td>
<td>0.90&quot;</td>
<td>21.52&quot;</td>
<td>4,000 lb.</td>
<td>98 lb. (44.5 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-38</td>
<td>48(\frac{7}{16})&quot;</td>
<td>46&quot;</td>
<td>42&quot;</td>
<td>43(\frac{7}{16})&quot;</td>
<td>0.87&quot;</td>
<td>24.85&quot;</td>
<td>4,000 lb.</td>
<td>106 lb. (48.2 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-44</td>
<td>54(\frac{7}{16})&quot;</td>
<td>52&quot;</td>
<td>48&quot;</td>
<td>49(\frac{7}{16})&quot;</td>
<td>0.86&quot;</td>
<td>28.12&quot;</td>
<td>4,000 lb.</td>
<td>114 lb. (51.8 kg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOOK-BASE with 3-Ball Hitch Attachment.
Installation instructions on p. 7.
Specifications (continued):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Net Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-32</td>
<td>40&quot; 101.6cm</td>
<td>36&quot; 91.4cm</td>
<td>1.07&quot; 2.7cm</td>
<td>20.40&quot; 51.8cm</td>
<td>4,000 lb. 1,818.2kg</td>
<td>91 lb. (41.4 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-38</td>
<td>46&quot; 116.8cm</td>
<td>42&quot; 106.7cm</td>
<td>1.02&quot; 2.6cm</td>
<td>23.62&quot; 60.0cm</td>
<td>4,000 lb. 1,818.2kg</td>
<td>99 lb. (45 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-44</td>
<td>52&quot; 132.1cm</td>
<td>48&quot; 121.9cm</td>
<td>0.99&quot; 2.5cm</td>
<td>26.81&quot; 66.8cm</td>
<td>4,000 lb. 1,818.2kg</td>
<td>108 lb. (49.1 kg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Specifications (continued):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Net Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-32</td>
<td>40&quot;</td>
<td>36&quot;</td>
<td>32 7/8&quot;</td>
<td>0.68&quot;</td>
<td>21.44&quot;</td>
<td>4,000 lb.</td>
<td>91 lb. (41.4 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>101.6cm</td>
<td>91.4cm</td>
<td>82.2cm</td>
<td>1.7cm</td>
<td>54.5cm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-38</td>
<td>46&quot;</td>
<td>42&quot;</td>
<td>38 7/8&quot;</td>
<td>0.67&quot;</td>
<td>23.58&quot;</td>
<td>4,000 lb.</td>
<td>99.1 lb. (45.0 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>116.8cm</td>
<td>106.7cm</td>
<td>97.5cm</td>
<td>1.7cm</td>
<td>59.9cm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOK-BASE-44</td>
<td>52&quot;</td>
<td>48&quot;</td>
<td>44 7/8&quot;</td>
<td>0.66&quot;</td>
<td>26.77&quot;</td>
<td>4,000 lb.</td>
<td>108 lb. (49.1 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>132.1cm</td>
<td>121.9cm</td>
<td>112.7cm</td>
<td>1.7cm</td>
<td>68.0cm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Hitch Attachments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ball Hitches</th>
<th>Ball Diameter</th>
<th>Shank Diameter</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Net Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BALL-178</td>
<td>1 7/8&quot; (4.8cm)</td>
<td>1&quot; (2.5cm)</td>
<td>2,000 lb. (909.1kg)</td>
<td>3 lb. (1.4kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALL-200</td>
<td>2&quot; (5.1cm)</td>
<td>1&quot; (2.5cm)</td>
<td>5,000 lb. (2272.7kg)</td>
<td>3 lb. (1.4kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALL-2516</td>
<td>2 5/16&quot; (5.9cm)</td>
<td>1&quot; (2.5cm)</td>
<td>5,000 lb. (2272.7kg)</td>
<td>4 lb. (1.8kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HITCH-3B</td>
<td>1 7/8&quot;, 2&quot;, &amp; 2 5/16&quot; (4.8cm; 5.1cm; 5.9cm)</td>
<td>N/A (hitches permanently mounted to 2&quot;x2&quot;x12&quot; square tube)</td>
<td>2,000 lb. (909.1kg)</td>
<td>12 lb. (5.5kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,500 lb. (1590.9kg)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,500 lb. (3409.1kg)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Record of Normal Condition:

When the unit is first unpacked, make a written record of its condition. Include observations about all features, i.e. pins, pin clips, welds, the frame, safety chain, quick link, and snap hook. Thoroughly photograph the unit and all labels applied to it. Add the photographs to the record. Describe where each label is located. This record establishes “normal condition”. During future inspections, compare your observations to the record to determine if the unit is in normal condition. See Inspections & Maintenance on p. 9.
Using the HOOK-BASE: Refer to the Exploded View (above) for locations of features described.

**WARNING**: USING THIS (LIFT TRUCK) FRONT END ATTACHMENT AFFECTS THE CENTER OF GRAVITY OF YOUR LIFT TRUCK. BEFORE USING THIS DEVICE, US FEDERAL REGULATION 29 CFR 1910.178 REQUIRES YOU TO CONTACT THE MANUFACTURER OF YOUR LIFT TRUCK TO REQUEST:

- **WRITTEN APPROVAL** (29 CFR 1910.178(a)(4)); AND
- **MARKINGS** FOR THE LIFT TRUCK THAT IDENTIFY THE ATTACHMENT AND GIVE THE APPROXIMATE WEIGHT OF THE TRUCK AND ATTACHMENT AT MAXIMUM ELEVATION WITH A LATERALLY-CENTERED LOAD (29 CFR 1910.178(a)(5)). DO NOT USE THIS DEVICE UNTIL YOUR LIFT TRUCK IS MARKED WITH CORRECTED CAPACITY TAGS. ONLY USE THIS DEVICE WITH LIFT TRUCKS THAT HAVE BEEN MARKED WITH CORRECTED CAPACITY TAGS.

**Step 1**: Select the appropriate towing attachment and install it.

**PINTLE HOOK**

A) Insert the bolts through the four bolt holes in the hitch plate (shown by dashed arrows).

B) Fasten the pintle hook to the HOOK-BASE: first apply a lock washer to each bolt; then apply a hex nut. Fully tighten the nuts to secure the connections.

ONLY USE THE HOOK-BASE TO **PUSH** TOWED EQUIPMENT. DO NOT **PULL** EQUIPMENT WITH THIS DEVICE!

**TOW BALL**

A) Insert the tow ball through the opening in the top of the hitch plate.

B) Fasten the tow ball to the HOOK-BASE: first apply a lock washer to each bolt; then apply a hex nut. Fully tighten the nuts to secure the connections.

ONLY USE THE HOOK-BASE TO **PUSH** TOWED EQUIPMENT. DO NOT **PULL** EQUIPMENT WITH THIS DEVICE!
3-BALL HITCH (model HITCH-3B)
Select the appropriate tow ball and insert the hitch through the (square) hitch receiver (see Exploded View on p. 6) in the hitch plate with the selected tow ball facing upwards. Align the pin holes in the hitch with the pin holes in the hitch brackets. Insert the lock pin through the pin holes and secure it in place with a hitch pin.

ONLY **PUSH** TOWED EQUIPMENT with the HOOK-BASE. **DO NOT** **PULL** EQUIPMENT WITH THIS DEVICE!

HOOK AND SHACKLE (models HOOK-S-4 and HOOK-R-4)
Unscrew the shackle pin. Align the shackle with the bottom hole of the hitch plate and reattach the shackle pin.

NOTE:
Swivel hook
model
HOOK-S-4
shown

**Step 2**: Remove the locking pins from the tine lock brackets and adjust the positions of the forks of your lift truck to match the locations of the fork tubes. Slowly drive the truck forward until the forks extend all the way through the fork pockets and the heels of the forks contact the ends of the fork tubes (the tine lock brackets should project behind the heels of the forks). Reinstall the locking pins; then reinstall the hitch pin clips.

NOTE: The forks of your lift truck should be **AT LEAST** as long as the fork tubes.
Step 3: Fasten the safety chain to the carriage of the forklift WITH NO SLACK. Loop the safety chain around the carriage. Attach the snap hook at the end of the chain to the quick link (welded to the frame). Wrap the chain around the carriage as many times as is necessary to remove slack from the chain. The chain must not be able to disconnect from the carriage without deliberate effort.

Step 4: Connect the trailer or other item to be towed to the towing attachment. Raise the forks sufficiently to put the tongue of the trailer in a horizontal position.

To connect a trailer to the pintle hook attachment:
   a) Unlock the snapper pin and remove it from the upper jaw of the pintle hook;
   b) Open the jaws by pressing the upper jaw upwards, while also pressing the opening lever forward. The jaw will maintain the open position when the lever is pressed all the way forward.
Inspections & Maintenance:

**NOTICE** Proper use, maintenance, and storage are essential for this product to function properly.

- Inspect the unit as described and at least as frequently as recommended.
- Use the product in accordance with the instructions in this manual.
- Store the HOOK-BASE and all towing and lifting attachments in a dry location.

Before each use, inspect the HOOK-BASE to confirm that it is in normal condition.

1. Safety chain and snap hook (attached to the free end of the safety chain): confirm that the spring latch (of the hook) automatically closes firmly. Do not continue to use the HOOK-BASE if the tine locks, snap hook, chain, or quick link are damaged or worn severely enough to prevent normal function.
2. Labeling: all labels should be readable and located as shown in the **Labeling Diagram** (below). If a label is unreadable or missing, contact Vestil to order a replacement.

At least 1 time per month, inspect:

1. Fasteners (hardware):
   - Bolts, nuts, washers, pins, cotter pins;
   - Chain and snap hook.
2. Fork pockets: confirm that each pocket is structurally sound and free of significant rust. Do not use the HOOK-BASE if the fork pockets are structurally compromised.
3. Welds: confirm that all welds are intact. Only use this product if all welds are in normal, undamaged condition.
4. Towing attachments, fork pockets, and hitch plate: confirm normal condition, i.e. no structural deformation, warps, or cracks, etc.
5. Overall condition: the structure should be clean, square and rigid, and free of rust and corrosion. Remove dirt and debris. Apply touchup paint to area where the finish is damaged. Do not use the HOOK-BASE if the supporting frame is structurally unsound.

Labeling Diagram:

Each unit should be labeled as shown in the diagram. However, label content and locations are subject to change so your product might not be labeled exactly as shown. Compare the diagram below to your **Record of Normal Condition**. If there are any differences between actual labeling and this diagram, adapt the diagram to reflect actual labeling. Replace all labels that are damaged, missing, or not easily readable (e.g. faded). To order replacement labels or to inquire whether your unit is properly labeled, contact the technical service and parts department online at [http://www.vestilmfg.com/parts_info.htm](http://www.vestilmfg.com/parts_info.htm) or by calling (260) 665-7586 and asking for the Parts Department.

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**A: Label 1049**

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**B: Label 287 (covered with label 815)**

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**C: Label 218**

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**D: Label 658**

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LIMITED WARRANTY

Vestil Manufacturing Corporation ("Vestil") warrants this product to be free of defects in material and workmanship during the warranty period. Our warranty obligation is to provide a replacement for a defective, original part covered by the warranty after we receive a proper request from the Warrantee (you) for warranty service.

Who may request service?

Only a warrantee may request service. You are a warrantee if you purchased the product from Vestil or from an authorized distributor AND Vestil has been fully paid.

Definition of “original part”? An original part is a part used to make the product as shipped to the Warrantee.

What is a “proper request”? A request for warranty service is proper if Vestil receives: 1) a photocopy of the Customer Invoice that displays the shipping date; AND 2) a written request for warranty service including your name and phone number. Send requests by one of the following methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Mail</td>
<td>(260) 665-1339</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@vestil.com">info@vestil.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestil Manufacturing Corporation</td>
<td>2999 North Wayne Street, PO Box 507</td>
<td>Phone (260) 665-7586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola, IN 46703</td>
<td></td>
<td>Enter “Warranty service request” in subject field.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the written request, list the parts believed to be defective and include the address where replacements should be delivered. After Vestil receives your request for warranty service, an authorized representative will contact you to determine whether your claim is covered by the warranty. Before providing warranty service, Vestil will require you to send the entire product, or just the defective part (or parts), to its facility in Angola, IN.

What is covered under the warranty?

The warranty covers defects in the following original, dynamic parts: motors, hydraulic pumps, motor controllers, and cylinders. It also covers defects in original parts that wear under normal usage conditions (“wearing parts”), such as bearings, hoses, wheels, seals, brushes, and batteries.

How long is the warranty period?

The warranty period for original dynamic components is 90 days. For wearing parts, the warranty period is 90 days. Both warranty periods begin on the date Vestil ships the product to the Warrantee. If the product was purchased from an authorized distributor, the periods begin when the distributor ships the product. Vestil may, at its sole discretion, extend a warranty period for products shipped from authorized distributors by up to 30 days to account for shipping time.

If a defective part is covered by the warranty, what will Vestil do to correct the problem?

Vestil will provide an appropriate replacement for any covered part. An authorized representative of Vestil will contact you to discuss your claim.

What is not covered by the warranty?

The Warrantee (you) is responsible for paying labor costs and freight costs to return the product to Vestil for warranty service.

Events that automatically void this Limited Warranty.

- Misuse;
- Negligent assembly, installation, operation or repair;
- Installation/use in corrosive environments;
- Inadequate or improper maintenance;
- Damage sustained during shipping;
- Collisions or other accidents that damage the product;
- Unauthorized modifications: Do not modify the product IN ANY WAY without first receiving written authorization from Vestil.

Do any other warranties apply to the product?

Vestil Manufacturing Corp. makes no other express warranties. All implied warranties are disclaimed to the extent allowed by law. Any implied warranty not disclaimed is limited in scope to the terms of this Limited Warranty. Vestil makes no warranty or representation that this product complies with any state or local design, performance, or safety code or standard. Noncompliance with any such code or standard is not a defect in material or workmanship.