

Timars automatic overheight

Sweden-based spreader manufacturer Timars Svets & Smide AB reports growing interest in its automatic overheight frame (OHA) for handling flats or oversized containers. "Demand is growing all the time," says the company's sales manager Peter Stenbeck.

Three 20-45ft OHAs have been delivered to the newly-inaugurated Terminal du France in Le Havre. They have some new safety features including improved visibility for the lower twistlock status indicator, a safety operational control system that is a self-supported, PLC-based survey system with solar panels and charge control equipment and a twistlock emergency release system.

In addition, a new assembly arrangement brings down the transport cost to a minimum, to keep the price even more competitive. "It is so simple, says Stenbeck, "if they want to, stevedoring companies can assemble it themselves in less than an hour."

Stenbeck says that the first question customers ask is whether the locking system is powered by the twistlocks of the parent spreader. This seems to be a common problem that can cause instability due to the use of different brands of spreaders that have different shapes, dimensions and twistlock rotation directions, and in many cases lack of torque movement in the parent twistlocks. In addition, if the overheight frame itself is equipped with a hydraulic pressure system, there can be problems in cold ambients.

The OHA has none of these problems, says Stenbeck. "We still have a purely mechanical lower twistlock locking system that is gravity-powered and is therefore independent of the parent twistlocks for (un)locking.

Furthermore, he adds, the bearings incorporated in the tel-



escopic OHA design have improved the extension and retraction of the frame and it runs with minimal friction. The safety systems are linked from one short side to the other and prevent twistlock turn if one or more is blocked.

Th SWL has been uprated to 50T and a double function twistlock safety design has been added. Due to the new assembling arrangements there is a stronger section between the short side beam and the centre beam.