



Liftable car decks

The operational flexibility of pure car/truck carriers (PCTCs) is greatly enhanced by the installation of TTS liftable car decks. Unlike the company's hoistable car decks TTS liftable car decks have no integral lifting mechanism but are deployed by a mobile scissor lift. As a result the maintenance requirements of each of the panels forming the liftable decks are minimal.

LIFTABLE CAR DECKS

When not required, the panels are stowed close against the deckhead above and locked in place by semi-automatic locking devices. This gives maximum headroom on the vehicle deck allowing trucks to be transported. When required for carrying cars, the mobile scissor lift is moved under each panel in turn and lowers it to one of two positions – intermediate and lower.

For example, in a typical arrangement, with the lifttable deck in its intermediate position there will be clear heights of 1.7m above and 2.4m below. In its lower position the clear heights are 2.0m above and 2.1m below.

The two-position arrangement gives even greater flexibility to the vessel as it allows slightly higher units such as buses, vans and off-road vehicles to be carried below the hoistable deck while conventional cars are carried on top. In this way maximum use is made of the PCTC's available space. Semi-automatic locking devices are employed to secure the panels in their intermediate position while fixed supports are provided at the lower position.

When the panels are not required, they are placed back in their stowed position by the vehicle-mounted scissor lift.



Any number of panels may be deployed as required according to the mix of vehicles carried on each voyage, detachable stanchions and ropes being arranged as necessary for safety purposes. The panels are built as an open construction and fitted with a top plate stiffened

by angle bars supported at their ends by the main girders. Typical uniformly distributed loads are between 0.2–0.5 tonnes/m² with axle loads ranging from 2.0 to 3.5 tonnes. Access to the panels is via a system of ramps which have anti-skid arrangements on the driving lanes.

The maximum dimensions of standard panels are about 19m long and 11m wide. To ensure that any deflections in the panels are kept within acceptable limits, the scissor lift must have a minimum table size of 7.0m x 3.0m.

A PCTC may be equipped with TTS lifttable car decks between several of its fixed deck levels, greatly increasing its vehicle-carrying capability.



◀ The two-position arrangement gives even greater flexibility

