

Towable boom lift VS self propelled boom lift

Hydraulic 45ft articulating boom lifts are versatile and powerful machines commonly used in construction, maintenance, and other industrial applications. These boom lifts are designed to provide operators with the ability to reach high and difficult-to-access areas with ease and safety. There are several models of hydraulic 45ft articulating boom lifts available on the market, each with its own unique features and specifications. In this article, we will explore some of the popular models of hydraulic 45ft articulating boom lifts and discuss their differences to help you make an informed decision when choosing the right boom lift for your specific needs.

1. Model

1.1 Towable Boom Lift

Towable boom lift also called trailer mounted boom lift or articulated boom lift, because the lift itself doesn't have a walking motor, the movement is rely on a trailer or pickup to tow by tow ball. And need to open 4 outriggers before lifting. Since it has outriggers to support, so the lift itself no need a very heavy chassis to keep steady.

1.2 Self-propelled Boom Lift

Self propelled boom lift is also called telescopic boom lift. Compare with towable boom lift, the biggest difference of self propelled boom lift is it can move itself, and worker can move the lift when it raised, we call it walking at height, it's much easier for those working conditions which need to move around during lifting. Self propelled boom lift no need outriggers, so the chassis is very heavy, even the smallest model self weight is over 10tons. But it can only move around in solid ground and small area, if you want to move the lift to other place you need to use a truck to load it and transport, not like trailer mounted boom can move to other place by a trailer or pickup.

2 Features

2.1 Features of towable boom lift

High flexibility: The towable boom lift has the characteristics of high flexibility within the operable radius. It can move not only in the vertical direction, but also in the horizontal direction. However, it needs to be fixed with outriggers and cannot be moved during work.

Easy to transport: The equipment is easy to transport and can be directly towed quickly. The trailer can travel at a maximum speed of 110km/h, which greatly improves work efficiency.

2.2 Features of self-propelled boom lift

Independent driving: The self-propelled boom lift has the ability to drive independently. It does not need to rely on trailers or other vehicles for towing. It can move to the work site by itself and can move during work. Compared with the towable boom lift, it has improved flexibility and convenience.

Wide applicability: The self-propelled boom lift is suitable for various terrains and environments. It can operate in narrow spaces or complex construction sites and has a wider range of applications.

3. Structure

Boom: The main part of the boom lift, usually made of high-strength steel, with a certain load-bearing capacity and stability. The boom can usually be raised and lowered and telescopically operated to adapt to the needs of operations at different heights and distances.

Lifting system: Used to control the lifting and lowering operation of the boom, usually driven by a hydraulic system or an electric system. The lifting system allows the boom to operate at different heights and improves operating efficiency.

Rotation system: Used to control the rotation direction of the boom so that it can rotate 360 degrees, which is convenient for operations in different directions.

Control system: Used to control the lifting, telescoping and rotating operations of the boom, which is convenient for operators to operate.

Support system: Used to support the stability of the boom lift, usually including components such as outriggers or support rods to ensure that the boom lift does not tilt or shake during operation. Of course, because of the mobility during work, self-propelled boom lifts generally do not have a support system.

4. Similarities and differences

4.1 The similarities of towable boom lift and self-propelled boom lift is they are both boom lifts, have long arms to reach bigger working range than other vertical lift platform.

4.2 Movement, towable boom lift needs to be moved by a trailer, so it needs to rely on an external trailer or other means of transport when moving. Self-propelled boom lift has walking motor and can be moved by their own drive system without the need for an additional trailer or means of transport.

4.2 Use scenarios, towable boom lift is suitable for situations where long-distance transportation is required or where work is to be performed at a fixed work site. Due to the limitations of its movement mode, towable boom lifts have low flexibility at the work site. In contrast, self-propelled boom lifts are suitable for situations where frequent movement and work are required at multiple work sites. The self-propelled

function of self-propelled boom lifts enables them to reach different work sites quickly and flexibly, improving work efficiency and flexibility.

4.3 Price, generally speaking, the price of a towable boom lift is relatively low because it has a simple structure, a relatively convenient movement method, and a narrow scope of application. The price of a self-propelled boom lift is relatively high because it has a self-propelled function and higher flexibility, a wider scope of application, and is usually equipped with more advanced technology and functions, so the price will be correspondingly higher. When choosing a boom lift, users can consider the above differences based on their specific job requirements and budget and choose the type of boom lift that suits them.