



Innovative Solutions for Material Handling

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RICO WINS U.S. NAVY LIFT TRUCK CONTRACT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(January 11, 2006 – Medina, Ohio) The U.S. Navy has awarded BPR/RICO Equipment, Inc. with an indefinite delivery order contract to supply shipboard certified, electric pallet trucks that will handle ordnance and ship stores. The contract is effective immediately for a total amount not to exceed \$5 million.

All U.S. Navy shipboard material handling equipment is required to pass a rigorous series of First Article Tests (FAT) prior to equipment being placed into service. "The U.S. Navy's First Article Testing is some of the most extreme testing ever performed on a lift truck. We're extremely proud that our equipment passed all First Article Tests with flying colors," said Mueller. "This reaffirms our commitment to engineering excellence and showcases the durability of our equipment."

Mueller stated, "You really have to look at the extreme nature of these test to appreciate the potentially severe environment these vehicles are required to work within. As an example, the Grade-A Shock test is specifically designed to verify the ability of our electric pallet trucks to withstand the shock loadings which may occur during wartime service due to the effects of nuclear or conventional weapons. Even though a sailor operating the vehicle may not survive the blast, or any Grade A shock, the equipment has to remain operable so that another sailor can resume the operation of the vehicle and ultimately ensure the continued combat capability of the ship."

Heavyweight Grade-A Shock testing involves placing your equipment on a floating barge that has 60 lbs of HBX (high explosives) placed 24 feet under the water. The equipment has to remain operational after receiving four blasts (shots) of the HBX with standoff distances between 20 and 40 feet.

A complete list of First Article Tests includes: Grade-A Shock sometimes known as HI-Shock; Salt Fog; Electro Magnetic Interference (EMI); and a grueling list of performance and operational tests. All tests are required to be witnessed by the government and certified by third party testing laboratories.

RICO is proud to be fabricators of the world's finest specialty lift trucks. With more than 125 years of industry experience, RICO has pioneered the design, development and manufacture of specialized lift trucks with capacities ranging from 3,000 to 300,000 lbs. The company's products are sold to a diverse customer base which includes users in the industrial, military and commercial markets.

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