FIG 22-7 —Triangular guard prevents the operator from riding a powered handtruck

the truck must be maneuvered in close quarters

The wheels of many powered handtrucks can be considered guarded by their position under the frame or lift platform However, where the wheels might injure the operator or others, guards should be installed High-lift platform rollers and chain sprockets should also be guarded

Many trucks, however, are being manufactured with a platform for the operator to ride in a standing position If this practice is permitted, the operator should be protected against foot or leg injuries Prism-shaped covers can be installed over the battery box to discourage operators from sitting on the truck during operation (Fig 22-7)

Remotely controlled trucks

Since they are operated electronically without the guidance of an operator, remote control (programed) trucks (Fig 22-8) must be provided with some means of bringing them to a complete stop if someone steps in front of the truck These trucks should be equipped with a lightweight, flexible bumper which, when contacted, shuts off the power and applies the brakes There should be sufficient clearance between the bumper and the front of the truck to permit the truck to come to a full stop without contacting anyone in its path

Safe Operation

Powered industrial truck traffic accidents can be prevented by putting into operation the same safe practices that apply to highway traffic For example, a powered industrial truck operated at excessive speed is being run at a speed too high for the conditions at a given moment Safe speed is the rate of travel which will permit stopping the truck well within the *certain clear distance ahead,* and permit making a turn without hazard of overturn Wet or slippery floors require a slower-than-ordinary speed

Specific speed limits for trucks should be established A favored maximum speed for loaded power trucks moving forward is 6 mph, although this speed may be too high in congested areas Many companies have installed governors, locking them in some instances

Collisions between trucks and stationary objects often occur while trucks are backing, usually while turning and maneuvering In such cases, the operator may be so intent on handling the load that he forgets where the rear of his truck is going Backing accidents

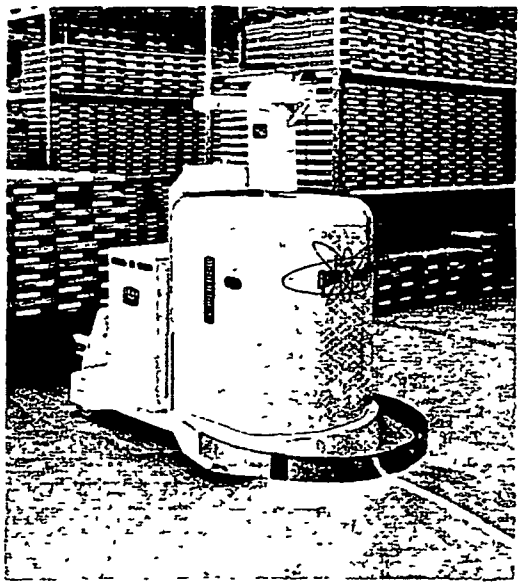

FIG 22-8 —Electronically controlled robot truck (guided by floor strip shown at lower right) has bumper which shuts off power when contacted

Courtesy Barrett Electronics Corp