



The Mobile Robot Company

Knowledge Center — Operator Responsibilities · 2026-08-04

<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/operator-responsibilities>

Operator Responsibilities

The J1600 is built around human-in-the-loop automation: the operator keeps authority over what the robot does and when. This page lists what that means in daily operation.

Core responsibilities

- **Initiate every task.** [Autonomous work](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/user-guides/autonomous-operation/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/user-guides/autonomous-operation/>) starts only when a person selects or creates a task on the touchscreen.
- **Pick up pallets manually.** [Pallet pickup is always manual](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/scenarios/manual-pickup-and-autonomous-delivery/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/scenarios/manual-pickup-and-autonomous-delivery/>). The operator judges pallet condition, load stability, and the approach before lifting.
- **Confirm entry into automatic mode** (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/manual-and-autonomous-mode-safety/>). The robot asks for confirmation, and the operator confirms with the physical start/resume button.
- **Step clear before autonomous travel.** The interface instructs the operator to step away before the vehicle starts.
- **Take over when conditions require it.** Grabbing or moving the tiller returns the vehicle to manual control immediately; emergency stops are always available. See [Emergency stops and manual takeover](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/emergency-stops-and-manual-takeover/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/emergency-stops-and-manual-takeover/>).
- **Select the operating mode deliberately.** A [three-position key switch](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/mode-selection/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/mode-selection/>) selects power-off, manual-only, or automatic mode.

Judgment calls that stay with the operator

The division of work is deliberate: the robot automates repetitive travel, and [the operator handles everything that needs context](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/user-guides/operator-manual/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/user-guides/operator-manual/>) —

- spotting damaged pallets, broken boards, or protruding nails before lifting;
- judging [top-heavy, leaning, or poorly stacked loads](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/sensitive-or-unstable-loads/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/sensitive-or-unstable-loads/>);

- tucking away loose shrink-wrap tails before they snag;
- locating pallets that are not exactly where the system expects them;
- catching leaking or damaged goods before delivery;
- handling dock plates, ramps, and slopes manually — automatic gradeability is 0%;
- improvising a route through congested areas;
- reprioritizing urgent deliveries.

The reasoning behind this split is described under [Human-in-the-loop automation](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/concepts/human-in-the-loop-automation/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/concepts/human-in-the-loop-automation/>), and the safety dimension under [Human responsibilities](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/human-responsibilities/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/human-responsibilities/>).

Training

About 30 minutes of [training](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/getting-started/operator-training/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/getting-started/operator-training/>) is sufficient for an existing electric-pallet-jack operator. The vehicle carries an on-screen tutorial, and the [commissioning package](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/commissioning-and-validation/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/commissioning-and-validation/>) adds group training plus individual hands-on practice for up to six operators.

Boundaries to respect

Operators should keep tasks within the vehicle's approved envelope: [approved loads and pallets](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/approved-loads-and-pallets/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/approved-loads-and-pallets/>), [floor and environment requirements](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/floor-and-environment-requirements/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/floor-and-environment-requirements/>), and the site rules established by the [site risk assessment](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/site-risk-assessment/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/site-risk-assessment/>).

OPERATOR AUTHORITY IS A DESIGN PRINCIPLE, NOT A FALLBACK

Human control complements the safety system and its certified components — independent safety controller, two 2D safety LiDARs, emergency stops, and the 360-degree protective field. It never replaces them. See [How J1600 safety works](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/how-j1600-safety-works/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/how-j1600-safety-works/>).