

Safety Equipment for Forklifts

Forklift Safety Equipment - There are different operations and industries, like for example agricultural, manufacturing and warehousing which utilize powered industrial trucks including lift trucks or forklift trucks regularly within the place of work. Lift trucks are used so as to lower or raise things or transfer things that are stored in containers or on pallets to other places in the place of work. These industrial machinery assist to enhance productivity at the job location by lessening the need for excessive manual handling of items by employees. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, there are approximately twenty thousand serious injuries each year in the US and approximately 100 fatalities caused by lift truck incidents.

There are different types of forklifts which have various load capacities. These kinds differ for specified maximum weight and forward center of gravity where a load is concerned. Worker injuries frequently occur as a result from forklift overturn, crushing incidents, collision with pedestrians or falls from the forklift. Operator falls could take place as the employee descends or ascends into the driver cab or becomes ejected from the machine in the event of an incident or a collision. Lift trucks can overturn due to having an unequal center of gravity of the load, or from being over-loaded or traveling over an uneven surface which could cause the vehicle to topple over. It is significant for other co-workers to observe strict safety policies if working near the lift truck. Without ample preventive measures, pedestrian co-workers are at risk from accidents or collisions related with an unsafe cargo.

With regards to forklift training, maintenance and operation, there are strict standards and training to be followed. For example, individuals who are under 18 years old and are in non-agricultural trades are permitted not to work a forklift truck. It is required that all forklift operators should have undergone both practical and theoretical training prior to commencing forklift operation and they are likewise required to take refresher courses.

The "American National Standard for Powered Industrial Trucks, ANSI B56.1-1969 are the standards which all powered industrial trucks have to comply with. The particular OSHA standards which employers as well as employees should follow as stated in the General Industry Standards comprise 1910.178 "Powered industrial trucks", and standards for Marine Terminals 29 CFR 1917 Subpart C, "Cargo handling gear and equipment" and Long shoring 29 CFR 1918 Subpart G, "Cargo handling gear and equipment other than ship's gear.

There are different other directives and regulations which are important for employers to know. The OSHA and NIOSH both comprehensively outline regulations or signpost employers and employees to all regulations that apply.