

Safety Equipment for Forklifts

Forklift Safety Equipment - There are several industries and operations, for example manufacturing, warehousing and agricultural which make use of powered industrial trucks along with lift trucks or forklift trucks often in the place of work. Forklift trucks are used to lower or raise stuff or move items that are stored on pallets or in containers to other places in the workplace. These industrial machinery help to enhance productivity at the jobsite by lessening the requirement for excessive manual handling of things by employees. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, there are about twenty thousand severe injuries each and every year in the US and about one hundred fatalities caused by lift truck incidents.

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

There are strict training and standards to be following with regards to lift truck maintenance, operation and training. An instance, those in non-agricultural trades below the age of 18 years are not allowed to operate a forklift. It is required that all forklift operators should have undergone both theoretical and practical training before commencing lift truck operation and they are even needed to take refresher courses.

The "American National Standard for Powered Industrial Trucks, ANSI B56.1-1969 are the standards that all powered industrial trucks should follow. The particular OSHA standards which employees and employers must adhere to as stated in the General Industry Standards include 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 various other directives and regulations that are essential for employers to know. The NIOSH and OSHA both comprehensively outline regulations or signpost employers and employees to all regulations that apply.