

Fork Mounted Work Platforms

Platform Requirements

There are certain requirements outlining lift truck safety standards and the work platform needs to be made by the maker to conform. A custom-made designed work platform could be made by a licensed engineer as long as it also satisfies the design standards according to the applicable forklift safety standard. These custom designed platforms ought to be certified by a licensed engineer to maintain they have in actuality been made according to the engineers design and have followed all standards. The work platform needs to be legibly marked to show the name of the certifying engineer or the manufacturer.

Certain information is needed to be marked on the machinery. For instance, if the work platform is customized made, an identification number or a unique code linking the certification and design documentation from the engineer has to be visible. When the platform is a manufactured design, the serial or part number to be able to allow the design of the work platform need to be marked in able to be associated to the manufacturer's documentation. The weight of the work platform if empty, in addition to the safety requirements which the work platform was built to meet is among other required markings.

The most combined weight of the equipment, people and supplies allowed on the work platform is referred to as the rated load. This information must also be legibly marked on the work platform. Noting the least rated capacity of the forklift which is needed so as to safely handle the work platform could be determined by specifying the minimum wheel track and lift truck capacity or by the make and model of the forklift which can be utilized together with the platform. The process for attaching the work platform to the forks or fork carriage should likewise be specified by a professional engineer or the producer.

Other safety requirements are there so as to ensure the base of the work platform has an anti-slip surface. This has to be situated no farther than 8 inches more than the normal load supporting area of the forks. There must be a means provided so as to prevent the carriage and work platform from pivoting and revolving.

Use Requirements

The lift truck should be used by a skilled driver who is authorized by the employer so as to utilize the apparatus for raising staff in the work platform. The work platform and the lift truck must both be in compliance with OHSR and in good condition prior to the application of the system to raise employees. All producer or designer instructions which relate to safe utilization of the work platform must likewise be accessible in the workplace. If the carriage of the lift truck is capable of pivoting or revolving, these functions need to be disabled to maintain safety. The work platform needs to be locked to the forks or to the fork carriage in the particular way provided by the work platform manufacturer or a professional engineer.

Different safety ensuring requirements state that the weight of the work platform along with the utmost rated load for the work platform should not exceed one third of the rated capacity of a rough terrain forklift or one half the rated capability of a high forklift for the configuration and reach being utilized. A trial lift is considered necessary to be carried out at each task site immediately previous to raising staff in the work platform. This process ensures the lift truck and be placed and maintained on a proper supporting surface and also in order to guarantee there is adequate reach to locate the work platform to allow the task to be finished. The trial process also checks that the mast is vertical or that the boom can travel vertically.

A test lift must be performed at each and every task location at once previous to hoisting personnel in the work platform to ensure the lift truck could be positioned on an appropriate supporting surface, that there is enough reach to locate the work platform to allow the task to be done, and that the mast is vertical or the boom travels vertically. Utilizing the tilt function for the mast could be used to assist with final positioning at the job site and the mast ought to travel in a vertical plane. The trial lift determines that adequate clearance could be maintained between the elevating mechanism of the lift truck and the work platform. Clearance is even checked according to storage racks, overhead obstructions, scaffolding, as well as whichever nearby structures, as well from hazards like live electrical wires and energized equipment.

A communication system between the forklift driver and the work platform occupants should be implemented in order to safely and efficiently control work platform operations. If there are multiple occupants on the work platform, one individual must be selected to be the primary individual responsible to signal the lift truck driver with work platform motion requests. A system of arm and hand signals need to be established as an alternative means of communication in case the primary electronic or voice means becomes disabled during work platform operations.

Safety measures dictate that staff are not to be transferred in the work platform between task locations and the platform ought to be lowered to grade or floor level before any person goes in or leaves the platform as well. If the work platform does not have railing or adequate protection on all sides, each occupant should put on an appropriate fall protection system attached to a chosen anchor point on the work platform. Personnel have to carry out functions from the platform surface. It is strictly prohibited they do not stand on the guardrails or utilize whichever mechanism in order to increase the working height on the work platform.

Finally, the driver of the forklift must remain within ten feet or three meters of the controls and maintain communication visually with the work platform and lift truck. If occupied by workers, the driver should abide by above requirements and remain in full contact with the occupants of the work platform. These instructions aid to maintain workplace safety for everybody.