

FORKLIFTS

Deficiencies involving forklifts and other industrial trucks comprised the third most cited OSHA violation, behind Lead and Lockout/Tagout. OSHA has some very specific requirements when it comes to forklift training and operation:

Employers must **develop** and **implement** a training program based on the general principles of safe truck operation, the types of vehicle(s) being used in the workplace, the hazards of the workplace created by the use of the vehicle(s), and the general safety requirements of the OSHA standard.

Trained operators must **know how** to do the job properly and **do it safely as demonstrated** by workplace evaluation.

Employers must **certify** (that means write it down and swear to it) that each operator has received the training and evaluate each operator **at least once every three years**.

Prior to operating the truck in the workplace, the employer must **evaluate** the operator's performance and determine the operator to be **competent** to operate a powered industrial truck safely.

Refresher training is needed whenever an operator demonstrates a deficiency in the safe operation of the truck.

Training must consist of a combination of formal instruction (e.g., lecture, discussion, interactive computer learning, video tape, written material), practical training (demonstrations performed by the trainer and practical exercises performed by the trainee), and evaluation of the operator's performance in the workplace.

Who does your forklift training? Has someone at your operation been through a Train-the-Trainer course? Your local forklift maintenance vendor may also provide operator training. Keep your workers safe, and don't let your operation become a statistic.

Find OSHA's training e-Tools here:

<http://osha.gov/SLTC/poweredinustrialtrucks/index.html#etools>

Find OSHA's regulations governing forklifts here:

http://osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9828

Find OSHA's Sample Daily Forklift Checklist here:

http://osha.gov/dcsp/ote/trng-materials/pit/daily_pit_checklist.html

This e-mail was produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. For more information, visit us on the Web at www.ISRI.org
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