

Fork Mounted Work Platforms

Platform Requirements

For the manufacturer to follow requirements, there are certain standards outlining the requirements of forklift and work platform safety. Work platforms can be custom designed as long as it meets all the design criteria according to the safety requirements. These custom designed platforms have to be certified by a professional engineer to maintain they have in fact been manufactured according to the engineers design and have followed all standards. The work platform needs to be legibly marked to display the name of the certifying engineer or the maker.

Particular information is needed to be marked on the machine. For example, if the work platform is customized made, an identification number or a unique code linking the design and certification documentation from the engineer ought to be visible. When the platform is a manufactured design, the part number or serial so as 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 while empty, together with the safety requirements that the work platform was built to meet is among other necessary markings.

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

Various safety requirements are there so as to ensure the floor of the work platform has an anti-slip surface. This should be located no farther than 8 inches above the usual load supporting area of the tines. There should be a way offered in order to prevent the carriage and work platform from pivoting and rotating.

Use Requirements

Only qualified operators are certified to work or operate these machines for raising staff in the work platform. Both the lift truck and work platform have to be in good working condition and in compliance with OHSR prior to the use of the system to raise employees. All manufacturer or designer directions that relate to safe use of the work platform should also be available in the workplace. If the carriage of the lift truck is capable of pivoting or rotating, these functions should be disabled to maintain safety. The work platform must be secured to the fork carriage or to the forks in the specific manner given by the work platform producer or a professional engineer.

Various safety ensuring requirements state that the weight of the work platform combined with the utmost rated load for the work platform must not go over one third of the rated capacity of a rough terrain lift truck or one half the rated capacity of a high forklift for the configuration and reach being utilized. A trial lift is required to be done at each task location instantly prior to raising employees in the work platform. This process guarantees the lift truck and be placed and maintained on a proper supporting surface and even to be able to ensure there is adequate reach to place the work platform to allow the task to be done. The trial practice likewise checks that the boom can travel vertically or that the mast is vertical.

A test lift should be done at each task location right away before hoisting employees in the work platform to ensure the forklift can be placed on an appropriate supporting surface, that there is adequate reach to locate the work platform to allow the job to be finished, and that the mast is vertical or the boom travels vertically. Utilizing the tilt function for the mast can be used to assist with final positioning at the job site and the mast should travel in a vertical plane. The trial lift determines that ample clearance could be maintained between the work platform and the elevating mechanism of the lift truck. Clearance is even checked according to scaffolding, storage racks, overhead obstructions, as well as whichever surrounding structures, as well from hazards like energized equipment and live electrical wire.

Systems of communication need to be implemented between the forklift operator and the work platform occupants so as to efficiently and safely manage operations of the work platform. If there are several occupants on the work platform, one person ought to be designated to be the primary individual accountable to signal the forklift driver with work platform motion requests. A system of arm and hand signals should be established as an alternative means of communication in case the main electronic or voice means becomes disabled during work platform operations.

Safety measures dictate that employees are not to be moved in the work platform between job sites and the platform needs to be lowered to grade or floor level before any individual goes in or leaves the platform as well. If the work platform does not have guardrail or enough protection on all sides, every occupant has to put on an appropriate fall protection system secured to a designated anchor point on the work platform. Personnel ought to perform functions from the platform surface. It is strictly prohibited they do not stand on the railings or make use of whichever tools in order to increase the working height on the work platform.

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