

Fork Mounted Work Platforms

Fork Mounted Work Platforms - There are specific requirements outlining forklift safety standards and the work platform has to be built by the maker so as to comply. A custom designed work platform can be designed by a licensed engineer so long as it likewise satisfies the design standards in accordance with the applicable lift truck safety standard. These custom-made platforms have to be certified by a licensed engineer to maintain they have in fact been manufactured in accordance with the engineers design and have followed all requirements. The work platform should be legibly marked to show the name of the certifying engineer or the manufacturer.

There is some particular information's that are required to be made on the machinery. One example for customized equipment is that these require a unique code or identification number linking the design and certification documentation from the engineer. When the platform is a manufactured design, the serial or part number to be able to allow the design of the work platform have to be marked in able to be associated to the manufacturer's documentation. The weight of the work platform when empty, along with the safety standard which the work platform was made to meet is amongst other vital markings.

The rated load, or the utmost combined weight of the equipment, individuals and supplies allowable on the work platform must be legibly marked on the work platform. Noting the minimum rated capacity of the forklift that is required to be able to safely handle the work platform can be determined by specifying the minimum wheel track and lift truck capacity or by the model and make of the lift truck which could be utilized with the platform. The method for fastening the work platform to the fork carriage or the forks should also be specified by a professional engineer or the manufacturer.

Other safety requirements are there to be able to ensure the floor of the work platform has an anti-slip surface. This needs to be situated no farther than 8 inches more than the normal load supporting area of the blades. There must be a way provided in order to prevent the carriage and work platform from pivoting and revolving.

Use Requirements

The forklift must be used by a qualified operator who is certified by the employer so as to use the apparatus for raising workers in the work platform. The lift truck and the work platform must both be in compliance with OHSR and in good condition prior to the application of the system to hoist workers. All manufacturer or designer instructions which pertain to safe use of the work platform should also be available in the workplace. If the carriage of the forklift is capable of pivoting or rotating, these functions must be disabled to maintain safety. The work platform needs to be secured to the forks or to the fork carriage in the specified way provided by the work platform manufacturer or a licensed engineer.

Another safety standard states that the combined weight of the work platform and rated load should not go over 1/3 of the rated capacity for a rough terrain lift truck. On a high forklift combined loads should not exceed 1/2 the rated capacities for the reach and configuration being used. A trial lift is needed to be done at each and every job location immediately prior to raising personnel in the work platform. This practice ensures the forklift and be located and maintained on a proper supporting surface and likewise so as to ensure there is sufficient reach to place the work platform to allow the task to be completed. The trial process likewise checks that the boom can travel vertically or that the mast is vertical.

Prior to using a work platform a trial lift must be carried out instantly before hoisting personnel to ensure the lift can be correctly situated on an appropriate supporting surface, there is enough reach to put the work platform to carry out the required job, and the vertical mast is able to travel vertically. Using the tilt function for the mast could be utilized in order to assist with final positioning at the task site and the mast must 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 scaffolding, storage racks, overhead obstructions, and whichever surrounding structures, as well from hazards such as live electrical wires and energized device.

Systems of communication should be implemented between the lift truck operator and the work platform occupants in order to efficiently and safely manage operations of the work platform. If there are many occupants on the work platform, one individual must be chosen to be the main individual responsible to signal the lift truck operator with work platform motion requests. A system of hand and arm signals have 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 personnel are not to be transferred in the work platform between job locations and the platform must be lowered to grade or floor level before any individual enters or exits the platform as well. If the work platform does not have guardrail or sufficient protection on all sides, each and every occupant must be dressed in an appropriate fall protection system attached to a selected 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 guardrails or use whichever mechanism to increase the working height on the work platform.

Lastly, the lift truck driver must remain within 10 feet or 3 metres of the lift truck controls and maintain visual contact with the work platform and with the lift truck. When the lift truck platform is occupied the driver should adhere to the above requirements and remain in contact with the work platform occupants. These tips help to maintain workplace safety for everybody.