

Fork Mounted Work Platforms

Platform Requirements

For the producer to comply with requirements, there are certain requirements outlining the requirements of lift truck and work platform safety. Work platforms could be custom designed as long as it meets all the design criteria in accordance with the safety standards. These custom designed platforms ought to be certified by a licensed engineer to maintain they have in fact been manufactured according to the engineers design and have followed all standards. The work platform must be legibly marked to show the name of the certifying engineer or the maker.

Certain information is required to be marked on the equipment. For instance, if the work platform is custom-made made, a unique code or identification number linking the design and certification documentation from the engineer has to be visible. When the platform is a manufactured design, the part number or serial to be able to allow the design of the work platform should be marked in able to be associated to the manufacturer's documentation. The weight of the work platform when empty, in addition to the safety standard that the work platform was constructed to meet is amongst other required markings.

The most combined weight of the equipment, people and materials acceptable on the work platform is known as the rated load. This particular information must likewise be legibly marked on the work platform. Noting the minimum rated capacity of the lift truck that is needed to be able 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 lift truck which can be utilized along with the platform. The method for fastening the work platform to the forks or fork carriage should also be specified by a professional engineer or the producer.

Different safety requirements are there so as to guarantee the floor of the work platform has an anti-slip surface. This has to be located no farther than 8 inches more than the standard load supporting area of the forks. There should be a means given so as to prevent the carriage and work platform from pivoting and turning.

Use Requirements

The lift truck must be utilized by a skilled operator who is authorized by the employer in order to use the machinery for raising personnel 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 maker or designer instructions which relate to safe use of the work platform must likewise be existing in the workplace. If the carriage of the forklift is capable of pivoting or turning, these functions ought to be disabled to maintain safety. The work platform has to be secured to the forks or to the fork carriage in the specific way provided by the work platform maker or a professional engineer.

Another safety requirement states that the rated load and the combined weight of the work platform must not exceed one third of the rated capability for a rough terrain lift truck. On a high lift truck combined loads should not go over one half the rated capacities for the configuration and reach being used. A trial lift is required to be performed at every job location instantly before raising employees in the work platform. This process guarantees the forklift and be placed and maintained on a proper supporting surface and also to ensure there is enough reach to position the work platform to allow the task to be finished. The trial practice also checks that the mast is vertical or that the boom can travel vertically.

Prior to using a work platform a trial lift should be carried out immediately before hoisting workers to ensure the lift can be well located on an appropriate supporting surface, there is sufficient reach to position the work platform to carry out the required task, and the vertical mast is able to travel vertically. Using the tilt function for the mast can be used so as to assist with final positioning at the job location and the mast needs to travel in a vertical plane. The test lift determines that adequate clearance can be maintained between the elevating mechanism of the forklift and the work platform. Clearance is also checked according to storage racks, overhead obstructions, scaffolding, as well as any surrounding structures, as well from hazards such as live electrical wires and energized equipment.

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

In accordance with safety measures, personnel are not to be transported in the work platform between separate task locations. The work platform needs to be lowered so that personnel can exit the platform. If the work platform does not have guardrail or sufficient protection on all sides, each occupant has to be dressed in an appropriate fall protection system connected to a chosen anchor point on the work platform. Workers ought to carry out functions from the platform surface. It is strictly prohibited they do not stand on the guardrails or make use of any devices in order to add to the working height on the work platform.

Lastly, the driver of the forklift needs to remain within 10 feet or 3 metres of the controls and maintain communication visually with the lift truck and work platform. When occupied by employees, the driver needs to follow above standards and remain in full contact with the occupants of the work platform. These instructions aid to maintain workplace safety for everyone.