

Forklifts and Powered Industrial Trucks

What is a powered industrial truck (PIT)?

- A mobile, power-propelled truck used to carry, push, pull, lift, stack or tier materials.
- Commonly known as forklifts, pallet trucks, rider trucks, fork trucks, or lift trucks.
- Can be powered through electric or combustion engines.
- Excluded are vehicles used for earth moving and over-the-road hauling.

Regardless of the type of PIT being used, training, application knowledge and proper truck maintenance are three of the most critical factors in maintaining a safe work environment.

1. Training – Employer must ensure operators receive training on the equipment they will be operating; specifically, that they have read and fully comprehend the operator manual and are aware of the warning labels on the truck.
2. Application knowledge – To uphold safety, operators must be very familiar with and thoroughly understand the specific application in which they are working.
3. Proper truck maintenance – Routine maintenance helps reduce not only the number of needed repairs but also the risk of accidents that could cause injuries.

Training

Key elements of a PIT safety training program encompass specific aspects of the lift truck including warnings, capacity, stability and controls, as well as workplace topics such as surface conditions, pedestrian traffic, hazardous locations and load analysis. At a minimum, forklift training should address the following major areas:

- General operating fundamentals associated with most forklifts, including fuel and battery handling.
- Focused areas associated with the operation of specific types of trucks.
- General workplace hazards, such as lighting and surface conditions.
- Particular workplace hazards, such as ramps, docks and aisle widths.
- Factors that can affect the stability of a forklift, such as load shape, speed of travel, tire condition and driving behaviors.

Pedestrians

Pedestrian signs in the workplace should provide warning in areas where PITs may present a hazard. The use of warning systems can also enhance the visibility of lift truck equipment throughout a facility.

Forklift Safety - 8 Rules - Avoid Accidents & Injuries - ...



#PIT

#Forklifts