

Fork Mounted Work Platforms

Fork Mounted Work Platform - For the producer to adhere to requirements, there are certain standards outlining the standards of lift truck and work platform safety. Work platforms can be custom made as long as it meets all the design criteria in accordance with the safety standards. These custom-made platforms have to be certified by a professional engineer to maintain they have in truth been made according to the engineers design and have followed all standards. The work platform should be legibly marked to display the label of the certifying engineer or the maker.

Specific information is needed to be marked on the machine. For example, if the work platform is custom-made built, a unique code or identification number linking the certification and design documentation from the engineer should be visible. When the platform is a manufactured design, the serial or part number 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 when empty, together with the safety requirements that the work platform was constructed to meet is among other necessary markings.

The rated load, or otherwise called the most combined weight of the tools, people and supplies acceptable on the work platform need to be legibly marked on the work platform. Noting the least rated capacity of the lift truck which is needed in order 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 forklift which can be used along with the platform. The process for attaching the work platform to the forks or fork carriage should also be specified by a licensed engineer or the maker.

Various safety requirements are there to ensure the base of the work platform has an anti-slip surface. This has to be situated no farther than 8 inches more than the usual load supporting area of the forks. There must be a means provided in order to prevent the work platform and carriage from pivoting and revolving.

Use Requirements

Only trained drivers are authorized to work or operate these equipment for raising employees in the work platform. Both the lift truck and work platform have to be in compliance with OHSR and in good working condition prior to the use of the system to raise employees. All producer or designer instructions which pertain to safe operation of the work platform must also be obtainable in the workplace. If the carriage of the lift truck is capable of pivoting or revolving, these functions have to be disabled to maintain safety. The work platform needs to be locked to the forks or to the fork carriage in the precise way provided by the work platform producer or a professional engineer.

Another safety standard states that the combined weight of the work platform and rated load must not go over one third of the rated capacity for a rough terrain lift truck. On a high forklift combined loads must not go beyond one half the rated capacities for the reach and configuration being utilized. A trial lift is required to be performed at every job site immediately prior to lifting staff in the work platform. This process ensures the forklift and be located and maintained on a proper supporting surface and even to be able to ensure there is sufficient reach to position the work platform to allow the job 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 and every task location immediately prior to lifting workers in the work platform to guarantee the forklift can be positioned on an appropriate supporting surface, that there is adequate reach to put the work platform to allow the task to be done, and that the mast is vertical or the boom travels vertically. Utilizing the tilt function for the mast can be utilized to be able to assist with final positioning at the job site and the mast must travel in a vertical plane. The test lift determines that adequate clearance can be maintained between the work platform and the elevating mechanism of the lift truck. Clearance is likewise checked according to scaffolding, storage racks, overhead obstructions, as well as whichever nearby structures, as well from hazards such as live electrical wires and energized machine.

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

Safety standards dictate that employees should not be transferred in the work platform between job sites and the platform should be lowered to grade or floor level before any individual enters or leaves the platform as well. If the work platform does not have railing or sufficient protection on all sides, each occupant needs to put on an appropriate fall protection system connected to a chosen anchor point on the work platform. Staff need to carry out functions from the platform surface. It is strictly prohibited they do not stand on the guardrails or make use of whatever tools so as to increase the working height on the work platform.

Lastly, the driver of the lift truck must remain within 10 feet or 3 metres of the controls and maintain communication visually with the work platform and lift truck. If occupied by staff, the operator needs to follow above requirements and remain in full communication with the occupants of the work platform. These instructions help to maintain workplace safety for everyone.