

FORKLIFT PRE-CHECK

Safety Topic V6-0228

Heavy Equipment, Inspections, Warehouse

Before using a forklift, examine it for hazardous conditions which would make it unsafe to operate.

- The operator should conduct a pre-start visual check before turning the forklift on and then also perform an operational check with the engine running.
- Remove from service any forklift found to be in unsafe operating condition.
- Check and report unusual noises or excessive vibration.

Forklifts typically have warning labels or decals that provide safety information to operators.

- Safety labels should be clearly visible and must be replaced if missing, damaged, or illegible.

Forklifts may be equipped with safety devices that should not be altered, removed, or disabled.

- Examples of safety devices include seat belts, horns, back-up alarms, signals and brake lights, mirrors and flashing warning lights.



The nameplate found on every forklift provides important information for the operator, including the fuel type, forklift weight, and capacity.

- Forklift operators should read the nameplate to know the forklift's capabilities and limitations.
- Never exceed the rated load, and ensure loads are stable and balanced. Exceeding the capacity of a forklift presents serious hazards, including tip-over.
- If there is a special attachment, it must be listed on the nameplate.
- Do not operate a forklift with an illegible or missing nameplate.

OSHA Standard 1910.178(a)(6) *The user shall see that all nameplates and markings are in place and are maintained in a legible condition.*

It is a violation of Federal law for anyone UNDER 18 years of age to operate a forklift or for anyone OVER 18 years of age who is not properly trained and certified to do so.

Discussion

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If someone is not yet trained, is it ever acceptable for them to operate a forklift?

What should the operator be looking for during the pre-start visual check of the forklift?