

Fork Mounted Work Platforms

Fork Mounted Work Platform - For the manufacturer to adhere to requirements, there are particular requirements outlining the standards of forklift and work platform safety. Work platforms can be custom made so long as it meets all the design criteria according to the safety standards. These custom-made platforms must be certified by a licensed engineer to maintain they have in fact been made in accordance with the engineers design and have followed all requirements. The work platform ought to be legibly marked to display the label of the certifying engineer or the producer.

Particular information is needed to be marked on the machinery. For example, if the work platform is custom-made made, a unique code or identification number linking the design and certification documentation from the engineer should be visible. When the platform is a manufactured design, the part number or serial in order to allow the design of the work platform have to be marked in able to be linked to the manufacturer's documentation. The weight of the work platform when empty, along with the safety requirements that the work platform was constructed to meet is among other necessary markings.

The utmost combined weight of the devices, people and supplies allowable on the work platform is called the rated load. This particular information must also 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 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 producer.

Another requirement meant for safety ensures the floor of the work platform has an anti-slip surface placed not farther than 8 inches above the normal load supporting area of the blades. There should be a means provided so as to prevent the carriage and work platform from pivoting and turning.

Use Requirements

The forklift ought to be used by a skilled driver who is certified by the employer to be able to use the apparatus for raising personnel in the work platform. The work platform and the lift truck must both be in compliance with OHSR and in good condition prior to the application of the system to lift workers. All producer or designer instructions which relate to safe operation of the work platform should also be accessible in the workplace. If the carriage of the forklift is capable of pivoting or revolving, these functions must be disabled to maintain safety. The work platform should be locked to the fork carriage or to the forks in the particular way provided by the work platform maker or a professional engineer.

Other safety ensuring requirements state that the weight of the work platform together with the most rated load for the work platform must not go over one third of the rated capacity of a rough terrain lift truck or one half the rated capacity of a high forklift for the configuration and reach being used. A trial lift is required to be performed at each and every job location immediately prior to raising workers in the work platform. This practice guarantees the forklift and be situated and maintained on a proper supporting surface and likewise to be able to ensure there is enough reach to locate the work platform to allow the job to be finished. The trial practice also checks that the mast is vertical or that the boom can travel vertically.

A trial lift should be performed at every job site right away before lifting staff in the work platform to ensure the forklift can be located on an appropriate supporting surface, that there is sufficient reach to position the work platform to allow the job to be finished, and that the mast is vertical or the boom travels vertically. Using the tilt function for the mast can be used to be able to assist with final positioning at the job location and the mast ought to travel in a vertical plane. The trial lift determines that adequate clearance can 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 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. When there are several occupants on the work platform, one individual ought to be designated to be the main person accountable to signal the forklift driver with work platform motion requests. A system of arm and hand signals have to be established as an alternative method of communication in case the primary electronic or voice means becomes disabled during work platform operations.

Safety measures dictate that staff are not to be transferred in the work platform between job sites and the platform should be lowered to grade or floor level before any person enters or leaves the platform as well. If the work platform does not have railing or sufficient protection on all sides, every occupant has to wear an appropriate fall protection system secured to a chosen anchor spot on the work platform. Personnel must carry out functions from the platform surface. It is strictly prohibited they do not stand on the guardrails or utilize whatever devices to add to the working height on the work platform.

Finally, the driver of the forklift needs to remain within ten feet or three meters of the controls and maintain contact visually with the work platform and lift truck. When occupied by workers, the operator should adhere to above requirements and remain in full contact with the occupants of the work platform. These guidelines help to maintain workplace safety for everyone.