Powered Industrial Trucks Bulletin



OSHA operation regulations for powered industrial trucks or forklifts.

- Trucks must not be driven up to anyone standing in front of a bench or other fixed object.
- No person is allowed to stand or pass under the elevated portion of any truck, whether loaded or empty.
- Unauthorized personnel are not permitted to ride on PITs. A safe place to ride must be provided where riding of trucks is authorized.
- Placing arms or legs between the uprights of the mast or outside the running lines of the truck is prohibited.
- When left unattended, forks must be fully lowered, controls placed in neutral, power shut off, and brakes set. Wheels must be blocked if the truck is parked on an incline.
- A safe distance must be maintained from the edge of ramps or platforms while on any elevated dock, platform or freight car.
- There must be sufficient headroom under overhead installations, lights, pipes, sprinkler system, etc.
- An overhead guard should be used as protection against falling objects.
- All traffic regulations must be observed.
- All emergency vehicles must be yielded to.
- Railroad tracks must be crossed diagonally whenever possible.
- The driver must slow down and sound horn at cross-aisles where vision is ob-structed.
- Grades must be ascended or descended slowly.
- When ascending or descending grades in excess of 10 percent, loaded trucks should be driven with the load upgrade.
- Stunt driving and horseplay are not permitted.
- The driver is required to slow down for wet and slippery floors.
- Make sure dockboards/bridgeplates are properly secured before driven over.
- Elevators should be approached slowly, and then entered squarely after the ele-vator car is properly leveled. Once on the elevator, the controls shall be neutral-ized, power shut off, and the brakes set.
- Motorized hand trucks must enter elevator or other confined areas with load-end forward.
- Only loads within the loaded capacity of the truck and stable loads should be han-dled.
- Defective or unsafe PITs must be taken out of service.
- Fuel tanks must not be filled while the engine is running.