

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Powered Industrial Truck Operator Training for Construction

Occupational Safety and Health Administration**U.S. Department of Labor****Information Card**

- **What vehicles are considered to be powered industrial trucks?**

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) defines a powered industrial truck as a mobile, power-propelled truck used to carry, push, pull, lift, stack, or tier materials. Powered industrial trucks, often called forklifts or lift trucks, can be ridden or controlled by a walking operator. Excluded from the OSHA standard are vehicles used for earth moving or over-the-road haulage. Specialized equipment used in the construction industry includes rough terrain straight-mast and extended-reach forklift trucks.

- **What industries are covered by the standard?**

The standards cover general industry, maritime and construction. The construction standard is 1926.602(d), which states that the requirements applicable to construction work are identical to those set forth at §1910.178(l).

- **Where can an operator obtain the training required to become a certified forklift operator?**

The employer is responsible for implementing a training program and ensuring that only trained drivers who have successfully completed the training program are allowed to operate powered industrial trucks. An evaluation of each trained operator must be conducted during the initial training, at least once every 3 years, and after refresher training. The training and evaluation may be conducted by the employer, if qualified, or an outside training organization.

- **What type of training is required?**

The training must be a combination of formal (lecture, video, etc.) and practical (demonstration and practical exercises), and include an evaluation of operator performance in the workplace. Truck-related and workplace-related topics must be included, along with the requirements of the OSHA standard. The specific training topics are listed in the standard.

- **Who should conduct the training?**

All training and evaluation must be conducted by a person with the necessary knowledge, training and experience to train operators and evaluate their competency. This may be the employer, another employee, or other qualified person. The training and evaluation does not have to be conducted by a single individual, but can be done by several persons, provided each one is qualified.

- **Is refresher training required?**

Refresher training is required when the operator has been observed driving unsafely, been involved in an accident or near-miss, received an evaluation that indicates unsafe operation, is assigned to drive a different type truck, or if a workplace condition affecting safe operation changes. An operator evaluation is required after refresher training.

- **What does "certified" mean?**

The employer must certify that each operator has been trained and evaluated as required by the standard. The certification must include the name of the operator, the date of training, the date of evaluation, and the identity of the person(s)

performing the training or evaluation.

- **Does an operator who has already been trained as a powered industrial truck operator have to be retrained under the new standard?**

If an operator has received training in a required topic and the training is appropriate to the truck and the working conditions encountered, additional training in that topic is not required if the operator has been evaluated and found competent.

- **Where can I get additional information about OSHA standards?**

For more information, contact your local or Regional OSHA office. OSHA also has a [Home Page](#) on the Internet.

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Occupational Safety and Health Administration
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210
 [1-800-321-OSHA](tel:1-800-321-OSHA)
[1-800-321-6742](tel:1-800-321-6742)
www.osha.gov

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