Fork Mounted Work Platform

Fork Mounted Work Platforms - There are specific requirements outlining forklift safety requirements and the work platform must be constructed by the maker to conform. A custom made work platform could be made by a professional engineer so long as it also satisfies the design standards according to the applicable lift truck safety standard. These custom-made 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 standards. The work platform ought to be legibly marked to display the label of the certifying engineer or the manufacturer.

Specific information is required to be marked on the machinery. For example, if the work platform is custom made, a unique code or identification number linking the design and certification documentation from the engineer needs to be visible. When the platform is a manufactured design, the part number or serial to allow the design of the work platform ought to be marked in able to be associated to the manufacturer's documentation. The weight of the work platform while empty, in addition to the safety requirements which the work platform was constructed to meet is among other necessary markings.

The rated load, or otherwise called the maximum combined weight of the equipment, people and materials allowable on the work platform need to be legibly marked on the work platform. Noting the minimum rated capacity of the forklift which is required in order to safely handle the work platform can be determined by specifying the minimum wheel track and forklift capacity or by the make and model of the lift truck which can be used along with the platform. The process for attaching the work platform to the forks or fork carriage must also be specified by a licensed engineer or the maker.

Another requirement for safety ensures the flooring of the work platform has an anti-slip surface placed not farther than 8 inches above the regular load supporting area of the tines. There should be a way given in order to prevent the work platform and carriage from pivoting and revolving.

Use Requirements

Just trained drivers are authorized to work or operate these machinery for raising employees in the work platform. Both the lift truck and work platform should be in compliance with OHSR and in good working condition previous to the use of the system to raise personnel. All maker or designer directions which relate to safe operation of the work platform should also be accessible in the workplace. If the carriage of the lift truck is capable of pivoting or revolving, these functions must be disabled to maintain safety. The work platform must be locked to the fork carriage or to the forks in the specified manner provided by the work platform manufacturer or a professional engineer.

Another safety standard states that the rated load and the combined weight of the work platform must not go beyond one third of the rated capability for a rough terrain forklift. On a high forklift combined loads should not exceed 1/2 the rated capacities for the reach and configuration being utilized. A trial lift is required to be done at each task location immediately prior to hoisting employees in the work platform. This process guarantees the lift truck and be placed and maintained on a proper supporting surface and even to ensure there is enough reach to position the work platform to allow the job to be completed. The trial practice also checks that the boom can travel vertically or that the mast is vertical.

Before using a work platform a test lift should be carried out immediately prior to raising employees to guarantee the lift can be well positioned on an appropriate supporting surface, there is adequate reach to place the work platform to perform the required job, and the vertical mast is able to travel vertically. Using the tilt function for the mast could be utilized in order to assist with final positioning at the task location and the mast needs to travel in a vertical plane. The test lift determines that adequate clearance could be maintained between the elevating mechanism of the forklift and the work platform. Clearance is even checked in accordance with scaffolding, storage racks, overhead obstructions, as well as whichever surrounding structures, as well from hazards such as live electrical wires and energized device.

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

According to safety standards, personnel are not to be transferred in the work platform between separate task locations. The work platform has to be lowered so that personnel can leave the platform. If the work platform does not have railing or adequate protection on all sides, every occupant needs to have on an appropriate fall protection system attached to a selected anchor point on the work platform. Employees must carry out functions from the platform surface. It is strictly prohibited they do not stand on the guardrails or use whatever mechanism in order to increase the working height on the work platform.

Finally, 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. When occupied by workers, the operator should adhere to above standards and remain in full communication with the occupants of the work platform. These guidelines aid to maintain workplace safety for everyone.