

Forklifts

Additional Resources:

- [Complete OSHA Standard](#)
- [FAQ](#)

Only a "Trained and Authorized Person" may operate a "Powered Industrial Truck" or "Forklift." To meet these requirements each operator must be competent to operate a powered industrial truck safely, as demonstrated by the successful completion of the training and evaluation. 1910.178(l)(1) through (6)

Safety rules that must be followed:

- Never operate a forklift unless trained and authorized to do so.
- Operate at a safe speed (posted speed limits if applicable).
- Start/stop slowly to prevent the load from shifting or spilling.
- Turn at a safe speed, smoothly and gradually.
- Be cautious on wet or slippery pavement.
- Maintain a safe distance behind other vehicles, three fork truck lengths.
- Sound the horn when approaching intersections, blind spots or other dangerous locations. Don't pass other vehicles.
- Use mirrors (if there are any) mounted at corners and in blind spots to see pedestrians and on-coming vehicles. No riders.
- Never refuel with engine running.
- Never raise or lower the load while traveling.
- Do not exceed the rated capacity of the forklift.
- You must keep your arms and legs inside the cab at all times.
- Watch for pedestrians.
- Stay alert for overhead structures.
- Never use a forklift as an elevator unless an approved personnel platform with handrails and toe board is securely fastened to the forks.
- Never leave a forklift running while unattended. Unattended is considered to be 25' from the truck.
- Never turn a forklift sideways on a ramp.
- When a forklift is left on an incline, the wheels shall be blocked/chocked.