

TOOL-BOX TALK

Powered Industrial Trucks



What are powered industrial trucks?

Powered industrial trucks, commonly called forklifts or lift trucks, are used in many industries, primarily to move materials. They can also be used to raise, lower, or remove large objects or a number of smaller objects on pallets or in boxes, crates, or other containers.

Powered industrial trucks can either be ridden by the operator or controlled by a walking operator. Over-the-road haulage trucks and earth-moving equipment that has been modified to accept forks are not considered powered industrial trucks.

Safe Forklift Operation

Forklift operators and employees working around these operations are at risk of hazards such as collisions, falls, tip-overs, and struck-by conditions. Ways to prevent these hazards include:

Forklift Operations

- Always operate the vehicle according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Always wear a seatbelt when the forklift has one.
- Never exceed the rated load and ensure it is stable and balanced.
- Do not raise or lower the load while traveling.
- Keep a safe distance from platform and ramp edges.
- Be aware of other vehicles in the work area.
- Have clear visibility of the work area and ensure you have enough clearance when raising, loading, and operating a forklift.
- Use proper footing and the handhold, if available, when entering the lift.
- Use horns at cross aisles and obstructed areas.
- Watch for pedestrians and observe the speed limit.
- Do not give rides or use the forks to lift people.

Safety Training

- Only trained and certified workers may operate a forklift.
- Ensure operators are trained on types of trucks in use.

Forklift Maintenance

- Remove from service any forklift found to be in unsafe operating condition.
- Keep forklifts in clean condition; free of excess oil and grease.
- Repair and maintain according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

Attendance Signatures

<i>(Sign)</i>	<i>(Date)</i>	<i>(Sign)</i>	<i>(Date)</i>

For additional safety information refer to LD Docsa Environmental Health and Safety manual.