

FACT SHEET 17

HOW LONG DOES A THOROUGH EXAMINATION LAST?

Although a Thorough Examination for a fork lift truck is like an MOT test for a car or lorry it is **not** valid for a set period of time. This is because there are different operational conditions that can impact on how quickly important components wear out. For example, the wear on a truck being used in a cement works is very different to that of a truck in a standard warehouse.

When a Competent Person carries out a Thorough Examination he has a responsibility to assess the working environment. He will take this into account when he determines when the next Thorough Examination is due.

Under the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER 98) he is required to state on the Report of Thorough Examination: “***the latest date by which the next Thorough Examination must be carried out***”. Effectively this date becomes the date on which the Report of Thorough Examination expires. The truck should not be used after this date until it has been inspected again and a new Report of Thorough Examination has been issued.

Note: If there is a significant change to the operating conditions the time between Thorough Examinations may need to be reduced. Advice should be sought from a Competent Person – a person competent to carry out thorough examinations.

Further detailed information about the relevant regulations is available in the following publications. They are readily available from HSE Books (Telephone 01787 881165), or from the FLTA office.

Safe Use of Lifting Equipment
Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998
Approved Code of Practice and Guidance
HSE Code L113
ISBN: 0-7176-1628-2
Price £8.00

Safe Use of Work Equipment
Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
Approved Code of Practice and Guidance
HSE Code L22
ISBN: 0-7176-1626-6
Price £8.00

The information in this Fact Sheet has been assembled and interpreted to give truck owners and users basic guidance on frequently asked questions. Further important information will be given in the quoted reference documents. Responsibility for meeting the safety obligations discussed rests with the employer, and the FLTA will not accept liability for any problem arising as a result of the content of this document. **Technical Bulletins, containing more detailed information and updated as appropriate, are made available free to members of the [FLTA SAFE USER GROUP](#).**

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