

FACT SHEET 24

Supervision of fork lift truck operations

If they aren't used properly, forklifts can be very dangerous. Every working day, 5 people in the UK suffer life-changing injuries in lift truck accidents.

For one survivor's story, [click here](#). (You will be asked to provide basic info to view for free.)

For those managing lifting activities, L117 (Rider-Operated Lift Trucks, Approved Code of Practice and Guidance) is an easy-to-understand and valuable reference. It provides those overseeing safety with the guidance they need.

The HSW Act requires you to provide adequate supervision. It is essential that supervisors have enough training and knowledge to recognise safe and unsafe practices.

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) applies to all work equipment. The Regulations require that: supervisors and managers have received adequate training for the purposes of health and safety, including: training in the methods which may be adopted when using work equipment; any risks which such use may entail; precautions to take, and (2) Every employer shall ensure that any of his employees who supervises or manages the use of work equipment has received adequate training for purposes of health and safety, including training in the methods which may be adopted when using the work equipment, any risks which such use may entail and precautions to be taken.'

HSE ACoP L117 further confirms this, stating;

Supervisors should be able to: ■ carry out an effective observation and know what to look for; ■ communicate effectively with operators and line managers; ■ recognise unsafe practice and behaviour; ■ maintain and promote health and safety standards

The correct training for managers reduces the risk of an accident, reduces the risk of injury and delivers financial benefits to your bottom line by reducing damage to stock, equipment, fixtures and fittings and improves the productivity and efficiency of your operation.

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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