

FACT SHEET 19

MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR LIFT TRUCK OPERATORS

It is important that all fork lift truck operators have an appropriate level of medical fitness for the work they are expected to undertake. Employers who have any doubt should seek professional advice.

Medical considerations are detailed on page 13 of **L117** (see below). This guidance states:

51. People with disabilities do not need to be excluded from work with lift trucks and may have developed skills which compensate for their disability. You should obtain medical advice about their suitability for the particular work they will be required to do. Reasonable adjustments may be required to enable some disabled people to work as lift-truck operators. The Equality Act 2010 is likely to apply.¹¹

52. The Drivers' Medical Unit at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) publishes At a glance: Guide to the current medical standards of fitness to drive.¹² This is aimed at health professionals and applies to lift trucks on the road, but can be applied to all work with lift trucks. For most work with lift trucks, a standard of fitness equivalent to that for the Group 1 entitlement (ordinary driving licence holders) would be appropriate. Activities such as working in a particularly demanding environment, working at night or moving highly toxic or explosive materials would probably be more appropriate to the Group 2 entitlement (heavy goods vehicle licence holders).

53. HSE is not prescriptive about the need for medical assessment for fitness to drive lift trucks and there is no legislation relating directly to this topic. However, you may choose to screen potential operators before placement and then follow the guidelines for Group 2 licences in At a glance which require medical examination every five years from age 45, and every year from age 65 (in line with licence renewal periods). Always seek medical advice where there is any doubt about a person's fitness to operate a lift truck.

L117 is available from the [HSE website](#) and the [FLTA Store](#).

Rider-operated Lift Trucks: operator Training (HSC L117)
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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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