

FACT SHEET 24

Version 2

SUPERVISION OF FORK LIFT TRUCK OPERATIONS

Fork Lift Trucks can be very dangerous if they are not used properly. It is managers and supervisors who direct activity and they hold ultimate responsibility if operations go wrong.

Regulation 8 of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER 98) makes it very clear that an employer has a responsibility to ensure that all lifting operations are properly planned and supervised. Building on this, Regulation 9 of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER 98) makes it clear that any such supervisor must be adequately trained.

Managers and supervisors do not need to be able to operate a fork lift truck. However, they do need to know sufficient information about the operating characteristics of the trucks they use, and the hazards of the tasks to be performed, in order to spot bad practice and do something about it – with confidence and authority.

Some training companies do provide training aimed specifically at the needs of managers and supervisors. “Rider - Operated Lift Trucks: Operator Training” (L117) states that:

“The guiding principle is that employers need to maintain the competence of operators to use fork lift trucks safely through a laid down, formal process of monitoring and assessment.”

And further that:

“Training will not in itself ensure the competence of individuals: this will develop with experience and should be monitored. Continued supervision will be necessary to ensure that good standards of operation are maintained.”

In addition there is plenty of detailed information throughout each of the following booklets that are available from the FLTA online store. Each has a special section for employers:

- Operator Safety – Counterbalance Trucks
- Operator Safety – Warehouse Lifting Equipment
- Employee Safety – Working with Fork Lift Trucks

Further information is available in the following publication which is readily available from HSE Books. You can also contact HSE Books on 01787 881165.

Title: Rider-Operated Lift Trucks: Operator Training
Approved Code of Practice and Guidance
HSC Code: L117
ISBN: 978-0-7176-6441-2
Price: £15.00

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.**

Fork Lift Truck Association, 34b Kingfisher Court, Hambridge Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5SJ
Tel: 01635 277577 Fax:01635 277579 mail@fork-truck.org.uk www.fork-truck.org.uk