

FACT SHEET 23

FORK LIFT TRUCK OPERATOR TRAINING

The law requires fork lift truck operators to be trained. Regulation 9 of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER 98) states:

“Every employer shall ensure that all persons who use work equipment have received adequate training.....”

Adequate training means sufficient for the job which, for fork lift truck operators, will be measured in days rather than hours.

As well as being a legal requirement there are sound safety and commercial reasons for ensuring that operators are properly trained. Lost time due to injury has financial implications as do damaged goods, buildings and trucks. Skilled operators have fewer accidents.

The training of operators usually includes three stages;

<i>Basic Training</i>	The basic skills and knowledge required for safe operations.
<i>Specific Job Training</i>	Knowledge of the workplace and experience of any special needs.
<i>Familiarisation Training</i>	Operation on the job under close supervision.

Different training will usually be required for different types of fork lift truck. On completion of training the operator will be given a certificate. This will show the type of truck that he or she may operate. For further details on certificates see Fact sheet 02.

For details of the bodies that accredit training organisations see Fact Sheet 06.

Detailed information on the selection and training of operators is contained in the following publication. This is readily available from HSE Books (Telephone 01787 881165) or the FLTA.

Rider-Operated Lift Trucks: Operator Training
Approved Code of Practice and Guidance
HSC Code L117
ISBN: 0 7176 2455 2
Price £5.00

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