

FACT SHEET 26

TOWING WITH A FORK LIFT TRUCK

Most fork lift trucks are not designed to tow as part of their function. If a tow hook or bar is fitted it is probably there to aid recovery and not to tow a trailer.

Most fork lift trucks have rear wheel steering and braking on the front wheels only. This means that their towing capability is very much restricted for practical and safety reasons. Losing control of a truck being used for towing may result in the truck tipping over, with very serious consequences indeed.

It is strongly recommended that a fork lift truck is not used for towing without first checking the suitability of the truck, and probable restrictions, with the manufacturer. Contact details are available for most manufacturers on the FLTA website. When making contact it would be appropriate to ask for technical assistance.

Many fork lift truck manufacturers also produce a range of tugs or tractors that are specifically designed for towing. If towing is part of the operational requirement then appropriate equipment should be used.

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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