

MIOSHA State Safety Standard Rules for Powered Industrial Trucks

These rules are explained in MSU's Fork Truck Training Program.

EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Daily checks.

- (1) At the start of each shift, the operator of a powered industrial truck or a qualified employee shall perform daily checks of the equipment as required by the employer.
- (2) An employer shall ensure that any defects that would affect the safe operation of the equipment shall be repaired before use.
- (3) An operator shall promptly report any defect on the powered industrial truck to the employer.

General operating rules.

- (1) An operator shall safeguard other employees at all times.
- (2) An operator shall not drive a truck up to anyone who is standing in front of a fixed object.
- (3) An operator shall not allow anyone to stand or pass under the elevated portion of any powered industrial truck, whether loaded or empty.
- (4) No employee, except the operator, shall ride on a powered industrial truck unless the truck is provided with a passenger seat. Passenger seats on a forklift truck shall be under the overhead guard.

Position of arms and legs.

- (1) An employee shall not place his or her arms or legs in either of the following positions:
 - (a) Between the uprights of the mast.
 - (b) Outside the running lines of a moving truck.

Parking.

- (1) When leaving a powered industrial truck unattended, an operator shall fully lower the forks flat to the floor, neutralize the controls, set the brakes and shut the power off.
- (2) Whenever it is necessary to leave a truck on an incline, the truck wheels shall be blocked and the steering wheels turned toward the curbing, wall or railing.

Towing and pushing.

A truck shall not be used to tow or push railroad cars, unless it is specifically designed for that purpose. Freight car doors shall not be opened or closed by using a powered industrial truck unless it is equipped with attachments designed for that purpose.

Loading trucks, trailers, and railcars.

- (1) An employer shall ensure that a highway truck and trailer shall not be boarded by a powered industrial truck before the highway truck and trailer has its brakes set and not less than 2 wheels blocked or be restrained by other mechanical means installed in a manner that will hold the trailer from movement.
- (2) An employer shall ensure that wheel stops, hand brakes, or other approved positive protection to prevent railroad cars from moving during loading or unloading operations are provided, and before and while dockboards or bridge plates are in position.
- (3) Provisions shall be made to isolate rail cars during switching operations as required by R 408.10026, "General Provisions."
- (4) An employer shall ensure that the landing gear of all semi-trailers are visually inspected immediately before the trailer is uncoupled from the tractor to assure ability of the landing gear to support the imposed load.
- (5) A semitrailer less than 30 feet in length, when not coupled to a tractor and being loaded or unloaded with a powered industrial truck, shall be provided a support capable of sustaining the load at the front.
- (6) An employer shall ensure that the flooring of trucks, trailers, and railroad cars are checked for breaks and weakness before they are driven onto.

Surveying path of travel.

Before moving or stacking, an operator shall survey the path of travel in order to avoid obstacles, such as, but not limited to, pipes, light fixtures, and sprinkler systems. A safe distance shall be maintained from the edge of ramps or platforms while on an elevated dock.

Operations in hazardous areas.

When operating a powered industrial truck in a hazardous area, only a truck specifically equipped for such operation shall be used.

Reporting accidents.

A powered industrial truck operator shall report all accidents involving injury to an employee, or damage to buildings and equipment to the employer.

Clear access.

An operator shall maintain clear access of fire aisles, to stairways and fire equipment when depositing loads.

Making repairs.

Operators shall not make any repairs or adjustments unless specifically authorized to do so.

Flammables.

A fuel tank shall not be filled while the engine is running. Spilled fuel shall be carefully washed away or completely evaporated, and the fuel tank cap replaced before restarting the engine.

MOVING TRUCKS

Operation.

- (1) An operator shall operate a powered industrial truck according to the rules of this part and in accordance with local traffic rules when on a public road.
- (2) When following another truck, a safe distance shall be maintained approximately 3 truck lengths from the vehicle ahead and the vehicle shall be kept under control at all times.
- (3) An operator shall give the right of way to ambulances, fire trucks, or other emergency vehicles.
- (4) An operator of a rider-type powered industrial truck shall not pass another truck traveling in the same direction at intersections, blind spots, or other dangerous locations.
- (5) An operator shall cross railroad tracks diagonally whenever possible and shall not park closer than 8 1/2 feet from the center of a railroad track.

Slow down at crossings and obstructions.

An operator shall slow down and sound the warning device at cross aisles and other locations where the operator's vision is obstructed by fixed objects.

Clear view.

An operator shall look in the direction of and keep a clear view of the direction of travel. When moving loads blocking the forward visibility, for safe handling an operator shall drive the truck with the load trailing.

Ascending and descending grades.

- (1) An operator shall ascend and descend grades of 10% or more at a speed of not more than 2 miles per hour.
- (2) When ascending or descending a grade that exceeds the back-tilt of the mast, the load shall be facing upgrade.
- (3) On all grades, unloaded trucks shall be driven with the load engaging means downgrade, tilted back and raised only as far as necessary to clear the floor or road surface.

Traveling.

In level areas an operator shall travel with the load engaging means elevated only sufficiently to clear obstacles on floor or roadway.

Starts, stops and turns.

Starts, stops and turns shall be made in a manner which will prevent a load from shifting or overturning the truck.

Horseplay.

Stunt driving and horseplay shall not be permitted.

Wet floors, dockboards, and bridgeplates.

- (1) An operator shall drive at a slow speed over wet or slippery floors.
- (2) Before driving over a dockboard or bridgeplate, an operator shall observe that the dockboard or bridgeplate is secured.

Entering elevators.

- (1) An operator shall drive onto elevators only when authorized to do so.
- (2) An elevator shall be entered squarely after it is leveled to the floor. Once on the elevator an operator shall neutralize the controls, set the brakes and shut off the power.
- (3) Motorized hand trucks shall enter an elevator and other confined areas with the load end forward.

- (4) A truck shall not enter an elevator if the combined weight of the load and truck exceeds the capacity of the elevator.

Running over loose objects.

An operator of a truck shall avoid running over loose objects.

LOADING SAFETY

Operators' loading rules.

- (1) An operator shall:
- (a) Operate a truck equipped with attachments as a partially loaded truck when not transporting a load.
 - (b) When loading a fork lift truck, place the load engaging means under the load as far as possible and tilt the mast backwards to cradle the load.
 - (c) Exercise caution when tilting loads especially when they are segmented.
 - (d) Lift or transport only a load that is within the rated capacity of the truck.
 - (e) Lift or transport only a load that cannot fall out of a basket or container, or off the load engaging means during the normal movements of the truck.
 - (f) Tilt an elevated load forward only when in a deposit position over a rack or stack.

Operations in hazardous areas.

When operating a powered industrial truck in a hazardous area, only a truck specifically equipped for such operation shall be used.

Reporting accidents.

A powered industrial truck operator shall report all accidents involving injury to an employee, or damage to buildings and equipment to the employer.

Clear access.

An operator shall maintain clear access of fire aisles, to stairways and fire equipment when depositing loads.

Making repairs.

Operators shall not make any repairs or adjustments unless specifically authorized to do so.

Flammables.

A fuel tank shall not be filled while the engine is running. Spilled fuel shall be carefully washed away or completely evaporated, and the fuel tank cap replaced before restarting the engine.