

The Gowrie Safety Report

Safety & Loss Prevention Insights



Forklifts: Safety & OSHA Guidelines

OSHA has an "emphasis program" on Forklifts. **What does the Forklift emphasis program at OSHA mean for you?** It means if you have a forklift, you have a greater chance of being inspected. And if you are inspected, there will most likely be a great amount of focus on your forklift, your drivers, and the accompanying paperwork. All businesses with forklifts must comply with [OSHA's Powered Industrial Truck Regulation 1910.178](#).

Gowrie Group recommends that you take the time now to make sure you are in compliance with OSHA's Powered Truck Regulations and to implement these smart forklift safety guidelines.

Guidelines for Improved Forklift Safety & OSHA Inspection Preparation:

1. All drivers must receive initial training and driver testing.
2. All drivers must successfully pass a driving test renewal every 3 years.
3. All driver should be issued a certification card, and have access to it at all times while at work.
4. Training should be done on your site so that the driving test is completed on your equipment.
5. Drivers must be tested on each different truck they use and each different attachment they use.
6. All forklifts must be equipped with seat-belts, no matter what year they were manufactured in.
7. The Data Plate must account for use of all attachments, including longer or shorter forks.
8. Forks should be in good repair, not too worn and never have holes drilled in them for towing.
9. A safety/maintenance inspection must be completed each day the fork truck is operated.
10. Remind all of drivers to watch for pedestrians, 75% of all forklift fatalities happen to people working or walking around fork trucks.



Gowrie's Safety & Loss Prevention insights are created by Kellie Crete. Kellie manages Gowrie Group's Safety & Loss Prevention practice area and has more than 25 years of experience in safety and loss control, and specializes in advising the marine industry and other niche segments of the commercial marketplace. Kellie is an OSHA authorized instructor.

Questions about Forklift Safety and Gowrie's Safety & Loss Control solutions:

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