Fork Mounted Work Platforms

Platform Requirements

For the producer to follow standards, there are particular requirements outlining the requirements of lift truck and work platform safety. Work platforms could be custom made so long as it meets all the design criteria according to the safety standards. These customized designed platforms need to be certified by a licensed engineer to maintain they have in truth been manufactured in accordance with the engineers design and have followed all requirements. The work platform ought to be legibly marked to show the label of the certifying engineer or the manufacturer.

Specific information is needed to be marked on the machine. For example, if the work platform is customized made, a unique code or identification number linking the certification and design documentation from the engineer needs to be visible. When the platform is a manufactured design, the part number or serial so as to allow the design of the work platform should be marked in able to be linked to the manufacturer's documentation. The weight of the work platform while empty, along with the safety requirements which the work platform was built to meet is amongst other necessary markings.

The utmost combined weight of the tools, individuals and materials acceptable on the work platform is called the rated load. This particular information must likewise be legibly marked on the work platform. Noting the minimum rated capacity of the forklift which is needed to safely handle the work platform can be determined by specifying the minimum wheel track and forklift capacity or by the model and make of the forklift that can be used together with the platform. The process for fastening the work platform to the fork carriage or the forks must also be specified by a professional engineer or the maker.

Various safety requirements are there to be able to ensure the floor of the work platform has an anti-slip surface. This needs to be placed no farther than 8 inches above the usual load supporting area of the forks. There must be a means offered so as to prevent the work platform and carriage from pivoting and rotating.

Use Requirements

Only qualified operators are authorized to operate or work these equipment for hoisting workers in the work platform. Both the work platform and lift truck have to be in compliance with OHSR and in good working condition previous to the use of the system to hoist personnel. All maker or designer instructions that relate to safe operation of the work platform must also be obtainable in the workplace. If the carriage of the lift truck is capable of pivoting or turning, these functions need to be disabled to maintain safety. The work platform needs to be locked to the forks or to the fork carriage in the precise way provided by the work platform manufacturer or a professional engineer.

Different safety ensuring requirements state that the weight of the work platform along with the maximum rated load for the work platform must not go over one third of the rated capacity of a rough terrain lift truck or one half the rated capability of a high lift truck for the reach and configuration being utilized. A trial lift is considered necessary to be performed at every job site instantly previous to hoisting staff in the work platform. This process guarantees the lift truck and be positioned and maintained on a proper supporting surface and also so as to ensure there is sufficient reach to position the work platform to allow the task to be finished. The trial practice also checks that the boom can travel vertically or that the mast is vertical.

A test lift must be done at every task location instantly previous to hoisting workers in the work platform to guarantee the lift truck can be placed on an appropriate supporting surface, that there is sufficient reach to locate the work platform to allow the job to be finished, and that the mast is vertical or the boom travels vertically. Using the tilt function for the mast could be utilized so as to assist with final positioning at the task location and the mast must travel in a vertical plane. The test lift determines that sufficient clearance could be maintained between the elevating mechanism of the forklift and the work platform. Clearance is even checked according to scaffolding, storage racks, overhead obstructions, and any surrounding structures, as well from hazards like for instance energized equipment and live electrical wire.

Systems of communication should be implemented between the forklift operator and the work platform occupants to be able to safely and efficiently manage operations of the work platform. When there are many occupants on the work platform, one individual has to be designated to be the main person responsible to signal the forklift driver with work platform motion requests. A system of hand and arm signals should be established as an alternative means of communication in case the primary electronic or voice means becomes disabled during work platform operations.

In accordance with safety standards, staff should not be transferred in the work platform between separate job sites. The work platform has to be lowered so that employees can leave the platform. If the work platform does not have guardrail or sufficient protection on all sides, every occupant has to be dressed in an appropriate fall protection system attached to a selected anchor point on the work platform. Personnel have to carry out functions from the platform surface. It is strictly prohibited they do not stand on the guardrails or utilize whichever devices to add to the working height on the work platform.

Finally, the operator of the lift truck must remain within 10 feet or 3 metres of the controls and maintain communication visually with