

Operating a forklift

Safety Tip 8: Forklift maintenance

General tips:

- Consult the manufacturer's manual for specific maintenance instructions.
- Have any defect that affects safe operation corrected immediately.
- Turn off then engine while fuelling.
- Lock out control devices and secure all parts of equipment (block out) against inadvertent movement before servicing equipment.



Suggestions for Forklift Operator's Daily Start of Shift Checklist.

(adapted from CCOHS)

Visual checklist:

- Engine oil, fuel level, and radiator water level up (propane, gas and diesel).
- Electrolyte level up and battery plug connections not worn or dirty (electric).
- Bolts nuts, guards, chains, hydraulic hose reels not damaged, loose or missing.
- Wheels/tires in good condition.
- Forks-positioning latches in working condition; carriage teeth not broken, chipped or worn.
- Chain anchor pins not worn loose or bent.
- No damp spots or drips indicating a fluid leak.
- Battery – no exposed wires on the cables; electrolyte and water levels up; hold-downs working.
- Hoses secure, not loose or rubbing.
- Head and warning lights working.
- Forklift capacity plate present and legible.

Operational checklist:

- Foot brake – pedal holds, unit stops smoothly.
- Parking brake – holds against slight acceleration.
- Deadman seat brake holds when operator rises from seat.
- Clutch and gearshift shift smoothly.
- All lights and gauges on control panel operational.
- Steering moving smoothly.
- Lift mechanism lifts smoothly to highest and lowest positions.
- Tilt mechanism moves smoothly and holds when mast is tilted fully forward and backward.
- Cylinders and hoses not leaking after above checks.
- No unusual noises.
- Report any problems identified in daily check.
- Propane cylinders properly secured.