

TOOLBOX TOPICS

POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCK OPERATOR TRAINING

OSHA has revised and finalized a new rule regarding the training requirements for workers that operate all powered industrial trucks for general industry as well as construction.

OSHA mandates a training program for operators. The training certification will require training based on prior knowledge and skill of the equipment, the types of industrial powered truck the operator will operate in the workplace, the hazards present in the workplace and operators demonstrated ability to operate a powered industrial truck safely. This requires that the training consist of a combination of classroom type instruction, demonstration by the trainer, practical training, and evaluation of the operator's ability to apply the training in the workplace.

OSHA believes that only a combination of these training methods is effective.

A refresher will be required if an accident or near miss incident occurs or the operator is observed operating the equipment in an unsafe manner or the operator is deemed to need more training. Equipment or assignment change or hazards change the workplace also warrant new training.

The training program shall consist of training & testing of the following:

1. Performance evaluation and oral and / or written test to measure the skill and knowledge of the operator with a pass or fail requirement.
2. Operator shall be retrained when new equipment is introduced, existing equipment is modified or operating condition change and operator's performance is unsatisfactory.

Employers are to assure that the new standard is applied and records filed and kept of all workers who operate any and all industrial powered trucks in the workplace who come under OSHA beginning December 1, 1998.

