



# Forklift Safety



## Requirements and Recommended Practices:

OSHA requires that all forklifts be examined at least daily before being placed in service. Forklifts used on a round-the-clock basis must be examined after each shift. [29 CFR 1910.178(q)(7)]

The operator should conduct a pre-start visual check with the key off and then perform an operational check with the engine running. The forklift should not be placed in service if the examinations show that the vehicle may not be safe to operate.

Remember! A vehicle in need of repair, defective or in any way unsafe, should not be driven and should be taken out of service immediately. Any problems should be recorded on the appropriate documents and reported to a supervisor.

**Before starting your vehicle, conduct a pre-operation (or pre-start) inspection that checks a variety of items, including but not limited to:**

- Fluid levels -- oil, water, and hydraulic fluid.
- Leaks, cracks or any other visible defect including hydraulic hoses and mast chains. NOTE: Operators should not place their hands inside the mast. Use a stick or other device to check chain tension.
- Tire condition and pressure including cuts and gouges.
- Condition of the forks, including the top clip retaining pin and heel.
- Load backrest extension.
- Finger guards.
- Safety decals and nameplates. Ensure all warning decals and plates are in place and legible. Check that information on the nameplate matches the model and serial numbers and attachments.
- Operator manual on truck and legible.
- Operator compartment. Check for grease and debris.
- All safety devices are working properly including the seat belt.

**In addition to this general inspection, additional items should be checked depending on the forklift type (electric or internal combustion, including liquid propane). These include but are not limited to:**

- Electric Forklifts
- Cables and connectors for frayed or exposed wires
- Battery restraints
- Electrolyte levels

- Hood latch

Note: Always use personal protective equipment such as a face shield, rubber apron, and rubber gloves when checking electrolyte.

- Internal Combustion Forklifts

- Engine oil
- Brake reservoir
- Engine coolant
- Air filter
- Belts and hoses



- Radiator

- Hood latch

- Liquid Propane Forklifts

- Properly mounted tank

- Pressure relief valve pointing up



- Hose and connectors

- Tank restraint brackets



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- Tank for dents and cracks
- Tank fits within profile of truck
- Leaks

Note: Always use personal protective equipment such as a face shield, long sleeves, and gauntlet gloves when checking liquid propane tanks and fittings.

Here is the link to this checklist with pictures:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/pit/operations/servicing.html>