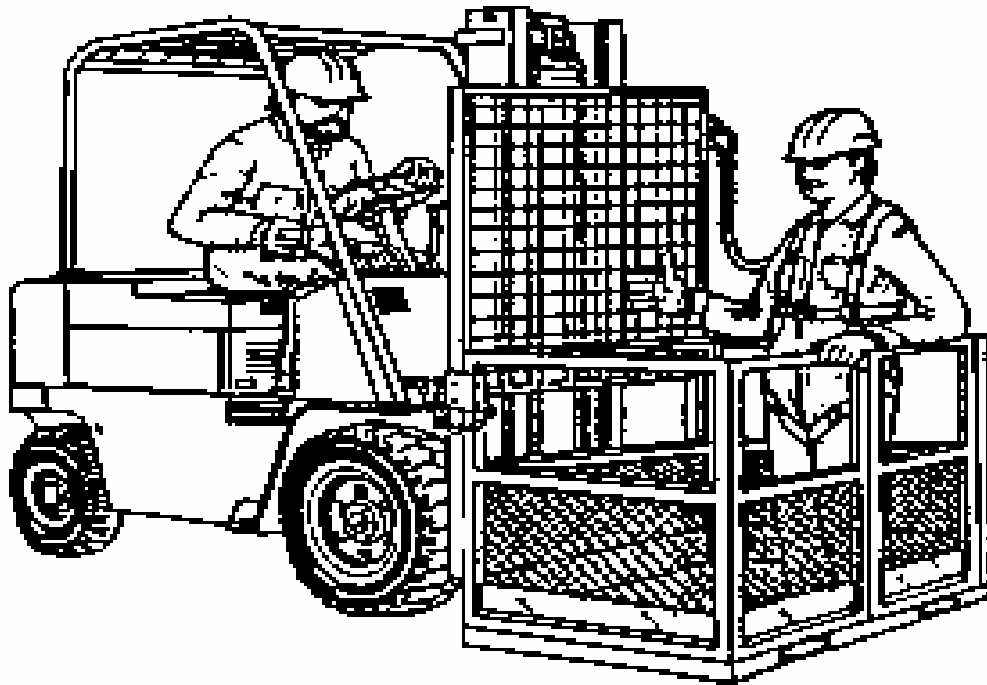


Guidelines for Work Platforms
Mounted on
Industrial Forklift Trucks



Manitoba Labour
Workplace Safety and Health Division

SCOPE

The following guideline outlines the safety requirements for work platforms mounted on industrial forklift trucks. This guide does not include requirements for "order-picker" lift trucks, excepting where an additional work platform is to be mounted on the forks and workers are expected to access the platform.

NOTE

Work platforms mounted on forklift trucks shall be used only for infrequent or emergency operations where the use of conventional ladders, scaffolding, elevating work platforms or other conventional means of access, is not practicable.

FORKLIFT VEHICLES

The carrier vehicle itself should be in compliance with a recognized standard, such as the American National Standard ANSI B56.1 "Low Lift and High Lift Trucks."

Any modifications or adaptations to the carrier vehicle shall be designed and approved by a professional engineer. This includes fork modifications, especially if structural changes are required.

WORK PLATFORMS (SEE DIAGRAM BELOW)

The platform shall be designed and constructed of materials of sufficient strength to ensure that the platform will support **four times the maximum safe working load**.

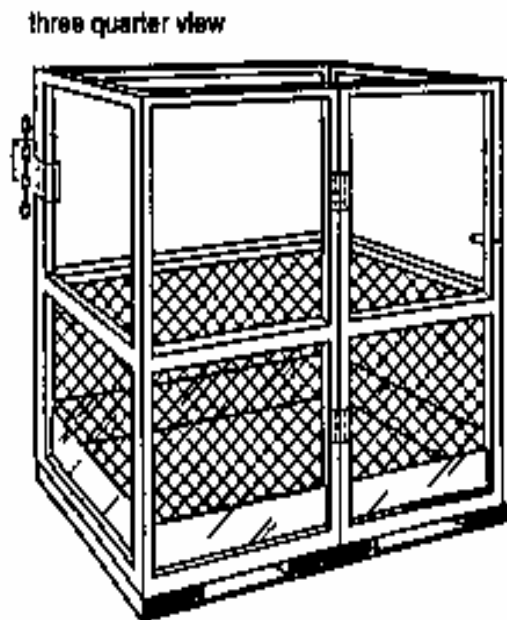
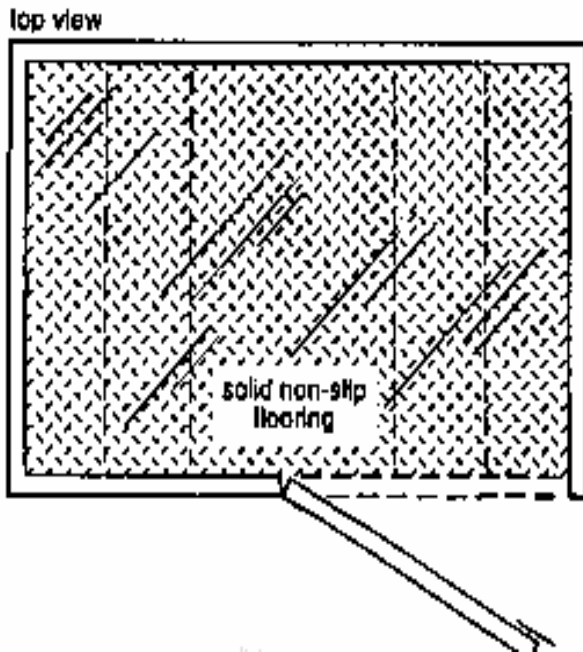
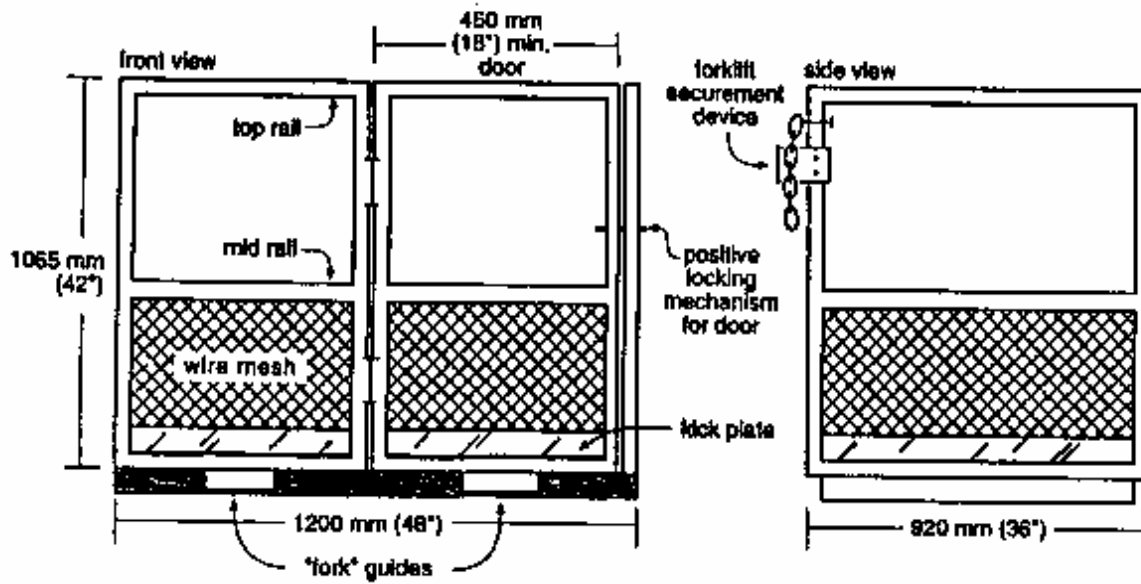
Depending on the complexity and usage of the work platforms, a safety and health officer may ask for an engineer's approval for the design and fabrication of the platform.

Pre-manufactured forklift work platforms provided by the forklift manufacturer are considered acceptable if they meet the design criteria in this guideline.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

1. The platform shall be positively secured to the fork carriage or backrest in a manner to support the weight of the platform and not allow platform movement on the forks. The use of a hoisting grade chain or wire rope sacrament system is acceptable.
2. The platform shall be fitted with a top guardrail at a height of approximately 1065 mm (42 inches) a mid-rail and minimum 127.0 mm (5.0 inches) kick plate around all sides (Metal screening in lieu of a mid-rail is acceptable).
3. Access to the platform shall be by means of a door not less that 460 mm (18 inches) wide, meeting the guardrail requirements of number 2, with a positive securing mechanism which will maintain the door in a closed position when the worker is on the platform.
4. Moving machinery, including gears, chains, and shearing hazards created by the movement of the lifting mechanism, shall be guarded in a manner to protect the occupants of the platform.
5. The platform deck should have a skid-resistant surface.
6. The platform itself shall be labeled in a manner to indicate:
 - a. the number of workers who may occupy the platform;
 - b. the maximum safe working load of the platform; and
 - c. Any other appropriate criteria considered necessary for safe operation of (such as use near energized electrical lines).

NOTE: The platform shall be designed so that the folk-lift guides are the only open positions that the forks may enter. The bottom of the platform should otherwise be closed, to avoid misplacement of the forks.



FORKLIFT EMPLOYER/OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

**(REFERENCE CSA B335 "INDUSTRIAL LIFT
TRUCK OPERATOR TRAINING")**

1. The employer shall ensure a properly trained worker operates the forklift. The employer shall make available to the operator, and any trainee, a copy of the manufacturer's operating manual for each forklift used on the premises.
2. The operator shall ensure that the forks are fitted properly into the forklift guides on the platform, and that the platform is secured to the forklift carriage in a positive manner to prevent inadvertent movement.
3. The operator shall immobilize the forklift vehicle against inadvertent movement before and during the time the work platform is occupied.
4. The forklift operator shall not leave the controls while workers are on the platform.
5. The operator shall respond to signals only from the designated signal person occupying the platform.
6. If workers are required to step off an elevated platform, or are working in circumstances where they could fall out of the platform, they should wear a safety harness secured by lanyard to the platform, or a suitable anchor point on the forklift carriage or back rest assembly.

STORAGE OF WORK PLATFORMS

1. Work platforms, when not in use, shall be kept separate from forklift trucks and other machinery for which they are to be used. The Operator is responsible to mount the platform prior to work and dismount the platform after completion of the job.
2. Forklift trucks and work platforms shall be stationed in an area specifically designated and clear of other material. There shall be sufficient room to carry out an unimpeded inspection of the equipment prior to use.
3. Visible signage shall be provided in storage areas where forklift trucks and work platforms are stationed as a reminder of the importance of maintaining safety standards