



**MEMORANDUM**  
**Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division**

**Date:** March 31, 1999  
**Reviewed:** July 15, 2009  
**TO:** All Staff  
**FROM:** Marilyn Schuster  
**SUBJECT:** Questions and Answers from Powered Industrial Truck Operator Training Stakeholders Meeting

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**How does Oregon OSHA make the public aware of new standards that require their attention?**

Workers' Compensation Division usually gets the word out. Also, Oregon OSHA has mailing lists, a newsletter, and a [Web site](#).

**Does the new training standard apply to earth-moving machines?** No, it applies to ANSI B56.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 covered equipment only. Vehicles used for earth moving or over the road hauling are excluded from the scope of the industrial truck ANSI standards and as a result, OSHA standards excludes them as well.

**What are the Oregon OSHA seatbelt requirements for lift trucks?**

If seatbelts are on the equipment, they should be worn whenever possible.

**Can employers be cited if restraint systems are not being used?** Yes, it depends on if there is exposure to a hazard.

**Will employers be cited if restraint systems are not being used?** Not necessarily, it again depends on if there is exposure to a hazard.

**Should employers obtain retrofit restraint systems from dealers of their model lift trucks?** Yes, if available. After market restraint systems need to be approved by the manufacturer for individual models.

**Issues that effect seat belt hazards:**

How well trained are the operators?

How well are drivers being trained by management in safe operating practices?

Is speed strictly controlled?

Are lift trucks being operated on or near open sided loading docks?

On docks and ramps that require bull rails are they of sufficient size and strength to keep the lift truck on the ramp?

Are lift trucks being operated in areas where other vehicle traffic creates collision possibilities?

Are main traffic lanes defined?

Is the driving surface rough or uneven, especially in areas where high stacking is required?

How adequate is the lighting?

Is the lift truck equipped with a cab?

Are doors open or closed?

Companies should establish their own seatbelt policies.

**Does the new operator standard apply to agriculture?** No, if your business is registered under one of these sic numbers, 0711, 0721, 0722, 0723, 0761, 0762, 0763, 0783 as found in the scope and application of Division 4, the new operator training standard does not apply.

**Is the application of the new standard related to sic codes?** Yes, the new agriculture standard applies to the above sic codes. However the agriculture standard has its own lift truck operator training standard. The new operator training standard applies to general industry, construction, and maritime activities and can be defined by sic numbers.

**Define what lift truck operator evaluators need to look for.**

In most cases, the person conducting the evaluation would do two things:

Observe the powered industrial truck operator during normal operations to determine if the operator is performing their duties safely.

Ask pertinent questions to ensure that the operator has the knowledge or experience needed to operate a truck safely.

**A few examples of things to look for that effect operator and pedestrian safety:**

How straight are stacks of material?

Does equipment and the building show signs of being hit or damaged?

Is the equipment maintained clean and orderly, or are walking surfaces oily and cluttered?

Do all gauges, switches, and levers function properly?

Check tires for damage, cuts, nails, low tire pressure, etc.

Are aisles marked to separate pedestrian and motorized equipment?

**Can training be provided by off-site training establishments?** Yes, however any training outside of the workplace needs to be supplemented with on site training in the tasks that the operator will be performing.

**When must training be completed?** December 1, 1999

**What kind of training documentation is required?** The Oregon OSHA standard [1910.178 \(I\)\(6\)](#) requires that the employer certify that each operator has received the training and has been evaluated. The written certification record must include the name of the operator, the date of the training, the date of the evaluation, and the identity of the person(s) performing the training or evaluation. Certification records must be maintained for three years.

**Is annual training required?** No, an evaluation of each powered truck operator's performance is required after initial training, after refresher training, and at least once every three years.

**How much responsibility does the general contractor have for the sub contractors employees operating industrial trucks used in construction?** The sub contractor will have the bulk of the responsibility to train their employees; however, the general contractor shares in that responsibility.

**If an employee who has been trained at one company, goes to work at another company, must he be retrained?** His training would need to be verified through testing. If ok, his training would need to consist of specific on-site issues and company policies.

**What requirement do trainers need to have?** People evaluating and conducting operator training must have the knowledge, training, and experience to train powered industrial truck operators and evaluate their competence.

**Do trainers need to be certified?** No, a certification process has not been established.

**What type of testing is required?** Oregon OSHA believes that given the variety of powered industrial trucks, workplace conditions, employee backgrounds, and types of effective training that it is not possible to specify standardized tests or methods. Example: A trainee cannot read sufficiently to take written tests. The test could be administered verbally with verbal responses. Evaluation of the trainee can be tailored to meet the needs of the individual and the company.