



Work Safety Alert

Collapse of the Mast of a High Lift Order Picker

- 1. Date of Accident :** June 2015
- 2. Place of Accident :** A warehouse
- 3. Summary :**

While a worker was operating a “high lift order picker” by riding on the operator’s platform supported by the mast of the machine for handling a pallet of goods in a warehouse, the mast suddenly broke apart and collapsed. As a result, the worker fell together with the operator’s platform for about 5 metres onto the ground and subsequently passed away.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers engaged in operating fork-lift truck or the like, the proprietor/employer should:

- conduct task-specific risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures with due regard to the working environment, the load being handled and the limitations of the fork-lift truck as specified by the manufacturer’s instructions;
- ensure that every fork-lift truck used in the workplace is of good mechanical construction, made of strong and sound materials, and free from patent defect; and in particular, all critical load bearing parts and welded joints should be free from cracks and defects;
- ensure that the fork-lift truck is tested, thoroughly examined and certified to be in safe working order by a competent examiner before it is first used or after undergoing substantial repair and at regular intervals thereafter;



- develop and maintain an effective preventive maintenance programme in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and specifications to ensure the mechanical integrity of all parts of the fork-lift truck, in particular the critical components thereof;
- provide the person working on the operator's platform of the fork-lift truck with a suitable safety harness that is attached to a specified anchor point designed by the manufacturer where necessary;
- ensure that the fork-lift truck is not used to handle a load greater than its safe working capacity and the safe working load chart should be provided on the fork-lift truck at a prominent position;
- ensure that the fork-lift truck is operated by a person who is competent in operating the machinery safely and holds a valid certificate relevant to the type of fork-lift truck;
- provide necessary safety information, instruction and training to all personnel involved including the operators, maintenance workers and the supervisory personnel to ensure that they have adequate knowledge of the fork-lift truck concerned and skills to properly carry out the work; and
- develop and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Loadshifting Machinery\) Regulation](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes for Safe Use of Fork-lift Trucks](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



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