

## FACT SHEET 11

### LOAD RATING OF FORK LIFT TRUCKS.

It should come as no surprise that a fork lift truck is designed to lift a specific weight to a specific height. That is one of the reasons why there are so many different types and models of fork lift truck. Every fork lift truck will have a rating plate. This plate will show the maximum weight that can be lifted to a given height and at a given load centre.

All operators should be taught to understand this terminology as part of their training. If it is not understood by your operators, or anyone else in the company, then you should ask your fork lift truck supplier to explain what it all means. **It is very important.**

Whilst it is safe to lift lesser weights it is not safe to lift greater weights.

When an attachment is used, even just a side shift, this extra equipment has a weight. In simple terms this extra weight becomes part of the load that the truck is lifting and the actual load must therefore be reduced. Unfortunately the calculation is not straightforward as other items, such as the changed centre of gravity, also have to be considered. The process of reducing the load that can be lifted is called de-rating.

Only the manufacturer of a fork lift truck can determine the level of de-rating required. Your fork lift truck supplier should be able to arrange this. Once the level of de-rating is agreed a new rating plate must be attached to the truck, showing the new rating details that apply when the truck is being used with the attachment. If a truck is to be used with more than one attachment then there must be a rating plate to cover each attachment that may be used.

The following publication provides further guidance and information.

Safe Use of Lifting Equipment  
Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998  
Approved Code of Practice and Guidance  
HSC Code L113 ISBN 0-7176-1626-6  
Price £8.00  
Tel: (HSE Books) 01787 881165

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The information in this Fact Sheet has been assembled and interpreted to give truck owners and users basic guidance on frequently asked questions. Further important information will be given in the quoted reference documents. Responsibility for meeting the safety obligations discussed rests with the employer, and the FLTA will not accept liability for any problem arising as a result of the content of this document. **Technical Bulletins, containing more detailed information and updated as appropriate, are made available free to members of the FLTA SAFE USER GROUP.**

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