



Lancaster Safety Consulting, Inc.

100 Bradford Road, Suite 100 ♦ Wexford, PA 15090

Phone: 724-776-1003 ♦ Fax: 724-776-1007

www.LancasterSafety.com



OSHA Requirements for Powered Industrial Truck (PIT) Driver Training

Prior to taking a driving test, employers must make sure that their employees have been provided training on how to operate the specific PIT(s) that they will be using in the workplace. It is recommended that employers review with employees the operator's manual for each vehicle type they are being trained to operate.

Section 1910.178(l)(3) of the OSHA standards requires that powered industrial truck operators receive training on the following topics (except in topics which the employer can demonstrate are not applicable to safe operation of the truck in the employer's workplace).

Truck-related topics

- Operating instructions, warnings, and precautions for the types of truck the operator will be authorized to operate;
- Differences between powered industrial trucks and automobiles;
- Truck controls and instrumentation: where they are located, what they do, and how they work;
- Engine or motor operation;
- Steering and maneuvering;
- Visibility (including restrictions due to loading);
- Fork and attachment adaptation, operation, and use limitations;
- Vehicle capacity;
- Vehicle stability;
- Any vehicle inspection and maintenance that the operator will be required to perform;
- Refueling and/or charging and recharging of batteries;
- Operating limitations;
- Any other operating instructions, warnings, or precautions listed in the operator's manual for the types of vehicle that the employee is being trained to operate.

Workplace-related topics:

- Surface conditions where the vehicle will be operated;
- Composition of loads to be carried and load stability;
- Load manipulation, stacking, and unstacking;
- Pedestrian traffic in areas where the vehicle will be operated;
- Narrow aisles and other restricted places where the vehicle will be operated;
- Hazardous (classified) locations where the vehicle will be operated;
- Ramps and other sloped surfaces that could affect the vehicle's stability;
- Closed environments and other areas where insufficient ventilation or poor vehicle maintenance could cause a buildup of carbon monoxide or diesel exhaust;
- Other unique or potentially hazardous environmental conditions in the workplace that could affect safe operation.