

# Safety Meeting Powered Industrial Trucks



Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A powered industrial truck is a mobile, power-driven vehicle used to carry, push, pull, lift, or stack material. Many of these vehicles are used in construction -- high lift trucks, counterbalanced trucks, cantilever trucks, pallet trucks, motorized hand trucks, forklifts, etc. They save a great deal of time and backbreaking labor. OSHA's new Powered Industrial Truck Standard, 29 CFR 1910.178, which went into effect in 1999, requires that the operators of these vehicles be trained and evaluated. The standard is fairly rigorous and calls for training that covers the truck, the workplace, and the specific requirements of the standard. Additionally, periodic refresher training and evaluations of the operator are required.

Training topics related to the truck include steering, maneuvering, engine and/or motor operation, visibility, vehicle capacity and stability, and the operation of all instruments, controls, and attachments. The differences between trucks and automobiles, and either refueling or battery charging must also be covered.

Topics related to the workplace should cover the surface conditions where the vehicle will be operated, and the composition, stability, and manipulation of the loads to be carried. Training must include how to deal with pedestrian traffic, and the details of operating on ramps, on other sloped surfaces, and in closed environments. Environment deserves special attention in the construction industry due to constantly changing conditions on the jobsite.

The instructor must be a person with the knowledge, training, and experience to both train and evaluate the operators. Refresher training, including an evaluation of the effectiveness of that training, shall be conducted to ensure that the operator has the knowledge and skills to operate the truck safely. Refresher training is necessary when an operator has been involved in an accident or near-miss incident. Training must also be provided when the operator has been assigned to drive a different type of truck, or if an evaluation reveals that the operator is not driving safely. Evaluations are required at least every three years.

For a complete list of truck and workplace related topics check 29 CFR 1910.178(I). Following the new standard should improve safety in the workplace and reduce accidents.

**SAFETY REMINDER:** Always check for people or obstacles before backing up.

### Employee Signatures

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