

SOUTHERN
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TOYOTALIFT

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WHY ARE FORKLIFT PRE-SHIFT INSPECTIONS IMPORTANT?

OSHA requires that all forklifts be inspected before shifts at least once a day. This common part of the daily routine is well-known in the material handling industry. While the details may vary from business to business, pre-shift forklift inspections should be a cornerstone of your culture of safety.

WHY ARE PRE-SHIFT INSPECTIONS REQUIRED?

OSHA requires all forklifts to be inspected before every shift or at least once daily before beginning work. This is required to ensure all equipment is in working order and to identify possible issues before they occur. These inspections also help extend the life of material handling equipment, as they identify issues that need maintenance to keep a forklift in proper working order. Pre-shift inspections are common across industries using different types of heavy equipment.

WHAT DO PRE-SHIFT INSPECTIONS HELP PREVENT?

A pre-shift inspection is designed to help prevent potential safety issues that could be caused by malfunctioning or damaged equipment. Things like hydraulic failure, stability issues, and other issues that can increase the risk of a tip-over or other safety incident. By identifying problem areas and parts that may need maintenance, forklift operators keep themselves, their coworkers, and their businesses safer.

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IN A PRE-SHIFT INSPECTION?

A pre-shift inspection of a forklift is what is also known as a “walk around” inspection. In this brief time before beginning work, operators should walk around their forklift and check key components for signs of damage or excessive wear and tear. Key items to check include:

- Forks for bending or signs of damage
- Chains for proper tension and greasing
- Carriage and load backrest for any signs of damage
- Tires for chunking, tearing, or damage
- Any signs of leaks or drips from the engine or hydraulics
- Seatbelt for proper tension and performance

These areas are key for the operator’s safety as well as their coworkers. Many other components should also be checked during a pre-shift inspection - talk with your supervisor to make sure you are aware of the unique requirements of your workplace.

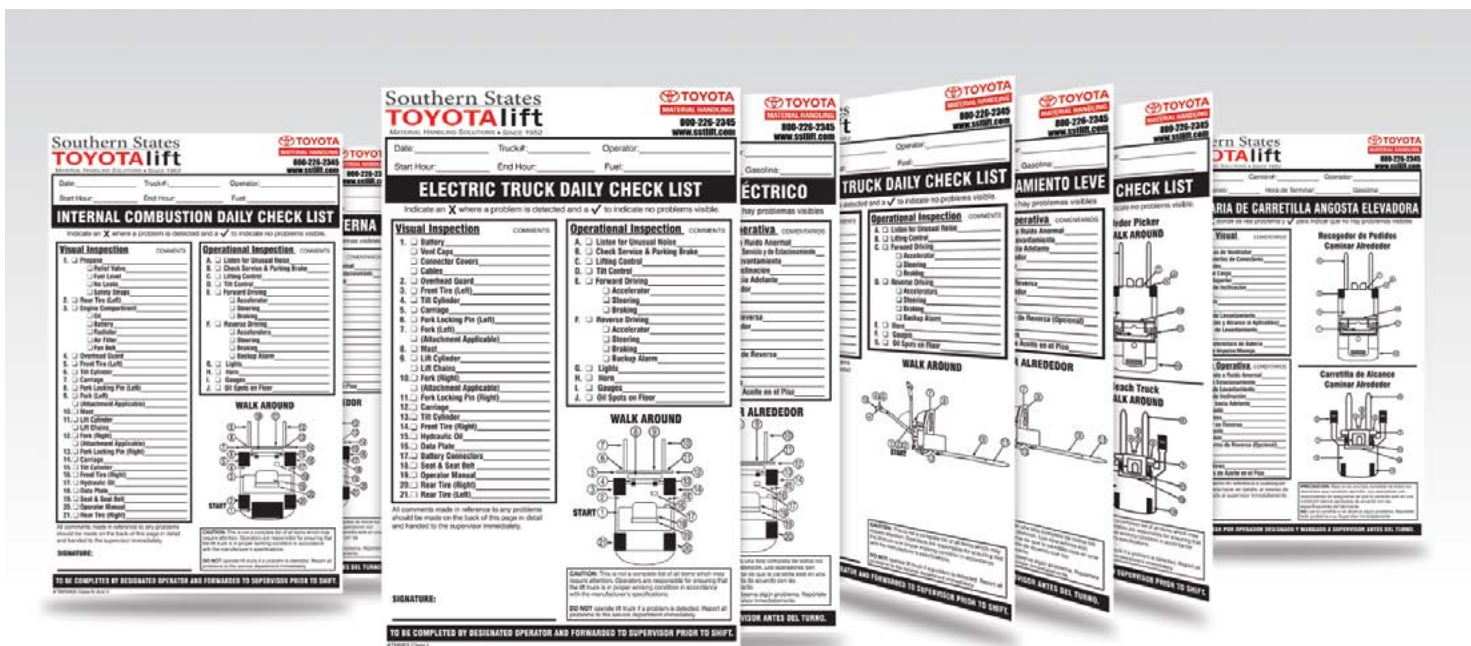
HOW SHOULD YOU TRAIN YOUR OPERATORS ON PRE-SHIFT INSPECTIONS?

Operators should be trained on pre-shift inspections as part of their on-boarding and certification process. You should also take the time to regularly check their compliance by asking them to show you how they complete a walk around inspection. Taking the time to make sure your staff are completing this process properly is key for building a culture of safety in your warehouse.

Protect Your Business... We Can Help!

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PRE-SHIFT INSPECTION SAFETY CHECKLISTS for Electric, Internal Combustion, Low Lift and Narrow Aisle Lifts



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