



Forklift Attachment Certification

If you use a forklift with after-market attachments, OSHA requires you to get them certified. What does it mean to get a forklift certified? It means the manufacturer or an engineer examines and approves the new attachment so you can safely use it with the forklift. The forklift's center of gravity and capacity change depending on the attachment used. The forklift could easily tilt if the stability triangle is not adjusted on the forklift.

An engineer must analyze it to make sure the forklift cannot only handle the attachment but also the loads the attachment will carry. This would cover any equipment that the forklift did not originally come with, such as: long extension forks, cages, clamps, etc.

If the manufacturer does not approve the attachment or you are not able to locate the forklift manufacturer, the best thing you can do is to get it certified by an engineer or a third-party vendor. Find a vendor in your area and tell them that you need your forklift certified for a specific attachment. If you purchase different varieties of attachments, you'll need a certification for each type.

If you have more than one forklift and you have different attachments, you will have to determine which forklifts will use which attachments. Forklifts from the same manufacturer can use the same attachment. Sometimes it is easier to assign one specific forklift to use one specific attachment, but you will have to decide what is more convenient for your company. Otherwise, you would have to get all your forklifts and attachments certified for every type of attachment, and that could be costly.

Once you get the forklift/attachment combination certified, you'll receive a plate showing that a specific forklift can be used with regular forks and with the new attachment. The process may take a couple of months, so plan ahead. The new plate will state the forklift's capacity, the attachment, and the maximum loads it can lift, among other things.

Finally, make sure your employees are trained to know which attachments go with each type of forklift, so they do not use the wrong combination of equipment.

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