

Health and Safety Solution

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Using forklift attachments

What is the problem?

Fitting an attachment to a forklift may change its capability to perform a specified task.

What are the risks?

Forklift operators and pedestrians are at risk of serious injury from forklifts overturning, loads falling and collisions when forklift operators:

- operate a forklift without knowing how an attachment can affect the overall operation of the forklift
- are unaware of changes to the lift capacity and stability of the forklift caused by the attachment
- use a non-approved attachment to perform a task.

What is a solution to the problem?

- Ensure attachments such as side shift devices, jibs and extension forks have rated capacities and information on the safe use of the attachment.
- Consult the forklift manufacturer's manual to ensure that an attachment it is safe to be used on a particular forklift model.
- When using an attachment, the forklift capacity may need to be de-rated and some operating controls restricted.
- Ensure the attachment is secured correctly and safely on the forklift. If a load is suspended, reduce the lift capacity.

- Attachments are to be used only for specified tasks.
- Supply instructions for the attachments use and ensure the forklift driver understands them.
- Only use attachments designed and matched for a specific forklift.
- Ensure that the operators are given additional training, instruction and information on the attachment's operation, load plate, and risks and control measures relevant to the workplace and tasks to be performed.
- Provide appropriate training and supervision to forklift operators.
- Ensure information (such work procedures) is easy to understand and follow (pictures may be useful).

Further information

For further information, call the Workplace Health and Safety Infoline on 1300 369 915 or visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

More information about forklift safety is available in [Forklift safety – reducing the risks](#).

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