

Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments Alabama - Without forklift attachments, many jobs would be difficult, if not impossible. There are numerous forklift attachments that make jobs faster and safer to complete. In addition to general forklift training, operators must be properly training for each attachment they intent to use. Many hydraulic and non-hydraulic forklift attachments are available. They offer numerous benefits by decreasing man-power, employee accidents, fuel consumption, damage to stock and time. Equipment Considerations Forklift attachments can be switched out to replace existing attachments or may be used on machines that don't currently have one. There are many equipment factors to consider prior to adding or replacing any forklift attachments. Considerations include the carriage type, the forklift model, the capacity of the forklift and the number of hydraulic functions used to power the features of the attachment. Failing to take these aforementioned factors into consideration can create extra safety hazards and risks for the operator, the forklift, its' attachments and the stock. Extra safety factors must be considered which will be discussed in more detail. Forklift Rating and Re-Rating These machines are provided with lift capacity ratings from the manufacturer that need adjusting when changing or adding any forklift attachments. Manufacturers of forklift attachments usually offer calculators available online to estimate the safe lifting capacity when using a particular attachment. It is important to note that only the forklift manufacturer can provide accurate lifting capacities. The first step before installing any attachment is to get in touch with the authorized local forklift dealer to request that that forklift brand is re-rated accordingly with the attachment. Once the forklift manufacturer has re-rated the machine, it will ideally have a new specification plate that is factory authorized. This new specification plate will replace the original plate and should be installed showing the new rating for the forklift. Equipment Upgrades It is vital to note when working with forklift attachments the equipment's hydraulic function consists of a forklift valve that has a lever located near the operator which creates two areas for pressurized hydraulic passages for oil. Note that not every attachment is hydraulic; however, the hydraulic attachments provide more features compared to the number of valves the forklift offers. In these instances, one or more valves need to be added. There are numerous ways a valve can be added. Forklift manufacturers make accessories for valve and hose routing. Due to the cost of labor and parts required, this process may not be practical. Alternative methods include adding a solenoid valve in conjunction with a hose or cable reel that diverts oil flow from an existing function. However, the operators' view may be compromised due to the cable reels and hose installation. These parts also may be easily damaged by their location. There are kits available that use a solenoid valve and specialty hoses that allow for the reinforced braid to double as an electrical conduit. These hoses are designed to replace existing ones and stay free from being damaged. The operator can enjoy a clear view with this option. Safety Considerations Prior to fitting any type of forklift attachment, proper training must be obtained. Operators need to be competent with removing, operating and fitting the attachment before using it. Two important safety factors must be considered before the use of any forklift attachment. The nominal load rating will be reduced on the forklift once any attachment is applied. Forks and a stock fork carriage compute the nominal load rating; although, the precise load rating may be much lower. Second, the center of gravity will be affected by the use of any forklift attachment. The forklift's stability will be reduced and this needs to be computed for safety. Because the weight of the attachment will be placed in front of the forklift's fulcrum point, it is necessary to drive the forklift as though it is partially loaded, even prior to picking up a load. Thus, when using any attachment, an operator should travel at a slow speed and make turns slowly and gently. Every attachment should be listed on the forklift capacity data plate. To maintain safety, special checks need to be completed before using any forklift attachment. The forklift attachment needs to be the right one for the type of forklift being used, appropriate for the load at hand, correctly attached, locked in place and permitted on the data plate of the forklift. List of Common Forklift Attachments Discover a list of

common forklift attachments and how they are utilized below. This is just a sample list of some of the most popular forklift attachments. The variety of attachments can drastically increase efficiency for many jobs.

SIDESHIFTER: Allows the operator to move the forks laterally, allowing for easier placement of a load without the need to reposition the entire forklift.

FORK POSITIONERS: The fork positioners adjust for different loads by moving the forks together or apart in relation to each other.

DIMENSIONING DEVICES: Provide dimensions for the cargo allowing for more efficient use of warehouse and truck trailer space and often used in conjunction with billing systems based on volume.

ROTATOR: A rotator helps to straighten tilted skids and handle custom load requirements and fast unloading. Many attachments include a rotator feature.

ROLL AND BARREL CLAMP: The roll and barrel clamp simplifies grasping rounded loads such as barrels. It has numerous pressure settings for handling fragile items with less damage potential. This attachment often has a rotate function to change the load from a vertical to a horizontal position.

CARTON AND MULTIPURPOSE CLAMP: The carton and multipurpose clamp has pressure settings and is used for handling more squared shaped loads. It easily masters boxes, bales and cartons.

POLE ATTACHMENTS: Pole attachments are placed where the forks would normally be and are used for transporting carpet and rolled up linoleum.

SLIP SHEETER OR PUSH-PULL: Allows operator to transport slip sheets by clamping onto slip sheets, as opposed to pallets, and either pulling the slip sheet onto wide and thin metal forks for loading or pushing the slip sheet to unload. Some variations of the attachment are Save, where the slip sheet is removed for reuse, or Standard.

DRUM HANDLER: The drum handler is built for holding drums. It may have arms that encompass the drum for transporting or it may feature a spring-loaded jaw to grip the drum's top lip.

DRUM AND STORAGE BIN TIPPER: The drum and storage bin tipper is designed for easier transport of liquid items or loose materials into bigger containers.

MAN BASKET: Lift platform meant for lifting workers and complete with railings and brackets for safety harnesses.

TELESCOPIC FORKS: Allows operation in a warehouse using two pallet stacking where one shelf is placed directly behind another with no aisle between the two.

SCALES: Enables operators to simultaneously weigh and transport pallets, eliminating the need to interrupt transport to travel to scales, and can be obtained in legal-for-trade weights for operations that bill by weight.

SINGLE-DOUBLE FORKS: Single-double forks facilitate movement of a single platform or pallet or two side-by-side pallets. This is useful for transporting specialty items with the right attachments employed. It can be used with normal lifting tasks and stops the need for owning two separate machines. This greatly reduces the cost of maintenance and operation that is used with multiple forklifts.

SNOW PLOW: Designed for snow removal and distribution but can also be used to move other types of loose material.

SKIPS: Allows safe and speedy removal of waste to the appropriate skip or waste compactor. Skips are available in a roll-forward type and a bottom-emptying type.

BOOMS AND JIBS: Jibs and boom offer extended forklift reach for transporting loads that are stacked deep or high or that are suspended. There are reach-over, low profile, precision lifting and extendable length options.