

Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments New Mexico - Many different jobs would be impossible without the help of forklift attachments. Forklift attachments make many jobs safer, easier and quicker to complete. Besides regular forklift training, operators also need to undergo proper training for every attachment they will be using. Forklift attachments come in a wide variety of hydraulic and non-hydraulic attachments. The benefits of utilizing a forklift attachment include decreasing: 1. Employee accidents; 2. Damage to stock; 3. Manpower; 4. Time; and 5. Fuel consumption. Equipment Considerations Forklift attachments can be switched out to replace existing attachments or may be used on machines that don't currently have one. Several equipment-related factors must be considered before any forklift attachment is replaced or added. These considerations include: 1. The forklift type; 2. The forklift's capacity; 3. The carriage type; and 4. The number of hydraulic functions. 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 Manufacturers give forklifts a lift capacity rating that needs to be considered and adjusted when adding or changing forklift attachments. Online calculators are available from manufacturers of forklift attachment's to provide estimates on every attachments' lifting capacity. However, 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. After the manufacturer of the forklift has re-rated the forklift, it should have a new factory authorized specification plate. The upgraded specification plate replaces the original plate and needs to be installed with the new forklift rating showing. Equipment Upgrades Forklift attachments rely on the machine's hydraulic function and are made up of a forklift valve that has a lever situated close to the operator. This creates two passages of pressurized hydraulic oil for powering the attachment features. Note that not every attachment is hydraulic; however, the hydraulic attachments provide more features compared to the number of valves the forklift offers. When this happens, the forklift needs to have one or more valves added. There are numerous ways a valve can be added. There are many ways to add a forklift valve. Equipment manufacturers make forklift accessories for hose routing and valve placement. There are plenty of labor and parts involved which can be costly enough to make this an impractical solution. Another possibility is to install a cable reel, solenoid valve and hose to divert oil from an alternate location. Unfortunately, hose and cable reels can sometimes block the operator's view and can be easily damaged. There are kits available that use a solenoid valve and specialty hoses that allow for the reinforced braid to double as an electrical conduit. Since these hoses replace existing forklift hoses, they remain safe from external damage while maintaining clear vision for the operator. Safety Considerations Before using any type of forklift attachment, adequate training must be fulfilled. An operator must be competent in the fitting, operating and removal of the attachment. Before using any forklift attachment, two safety issues need consideration. The nominal load rating will be reduced on the forklift once any attachment is applied. The nominal load rating is determined with forks and a stock fork carriage. It is important to note that the real load rating may be significantly lower. Using any type of forklift attachment will affect the center of gravity on the machine. Obviously, the stability of the forklift is reduced. 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. Check the forklift's capacity to ensure that every attachment is listed on the data plate. Specific safety checks must be made prior to using each forklift attachment. The attachment must be: 1. Appropriate for the specific forklift being used; 2. Appropriate for the specific load; 3. Attached correctly; 4. Properly locked; and 5. Permitted on the forklift's data plate. List of Common Forklift Attachments Below is a list of popular forklift attachments and their

general uses. There are many more attachments available than are listed here but this will cover the most widely-used. Forklift attachments are designed to increase job efficiency for many applications.

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:** Fork positioners allow the forks to travel apart or together with each other to adjust for different load sizes. **DIMENSIONING DEVICES:** Dimensioning devices offer cargo dimensions to create more warehouse efficiency and better truck and trailer space. This is commonly used with billing systems that record volume. **ROTATOR:** Rotators help to right tilted skids and are useful for fast unloading and tackling custom load requirements. Numerous attachments have a rotator feature. **ROLL AND BARREL CLAMP:** Allows for grasping of load with a rounded shape, such as rolled material and barrels, often with various pressure setting to avoid damage to more fragile materials. These attachments sometimes also have a rotate function to assist with, for example, rotating an item from a horizontal to a vertical position. **CARTON AND MULTIPURPOSE CLAMP:** Allows for grasping a load with a more squared shape, often with pressure settings. Products like cartons, boxes and bales can be moved with this type of attachment. **POLE ATTACHMENTS:** Long, metal pole used in place of forks to lift rolled items such as carpet or linoleum. **SLIP SHEETER OR PUSH-PULL:** The slip sheeter or push-pull allows the operator to move sheets by clamping onto slip sheets. This is an option instead of relying on pallets. The slip sheet can be moved onto thin and wide metal forks to simplify loading or unloading by pushing the slip sheet. The “Save” variation allows the slip sheet to be taken off for reuse later. The “Standard,” attachment variation is another option. **DRUM HANDLER:** Allows for grasping drums, either with a spring-loaded jaw to grip the top lip of a drum, or with arms that encircle the drum, for transport. **DRUM AND STORAGE BIN TIPPER:** The drum and storage bin tipper helps to transfer loose or liquid items into other containers. **MAN BASKET:** The lift platform known as a man basket is designed to transport workers vertically. It is outfitted with brackets and railings to anchor safety harnesses. **TELESCOPIC FORKS:** Telescopic forks are used in warehouses that rely on stacking two pallets in the event one shelf is located behind another shelf with no aisle in between. **SCALES:** Scales allow forklift operators to weigh their pallets during transport. This increases efficiency by providing simultaneous data and not making the operator travel back and forth to scales. This attachment can be used for operators who bill by weight in legal-for-trade applications. **SINGLE-DOUBLE FORKS:** The single-double forks can be used alongside regular lifting tasks. It allows a single pallet or platform to move or two pallets beside each other. Additional attachments can be used and this replaces the need for having a separate specialty unit; thus reducing maintenance and operating costs associated with more than one machine. **SNOW PLOW:** Originally designed for snow removal, snow plow attachments can be used to move other loose items. **SKIPS:** Skips enable quick and safe waste removal to a skip or waste compactor. They may feature a bottom-emptying design or be a roll-forward model. **BOOMS AND JIBS:** Booms and jibs allow forklifts extended reach. They are available to transport deep or highly stacked loads, suspended loads and more. These attachments can be low profile, precision lifting or reach over models to facilitate extended lengths.