

UMS Safety Support Updates, News and Other Topics of Interest September 2017

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This Month's Safety Reminder – Powered Industrial Trucks



Here's a quiz for employees that are required to operate a Powered Industrial Truck (specifically, forklifts) at the university:

All operators must understand the importance of the information on the nameplate. There are different load limits depending on the center of gravity. The lift capacity of a truck is affected by lift height and load size. A larger size load moves the center of gravity of the vehicle/load combination thus reducing the lift capacity in addition to the height the load is being lifted. Also, attachments will affect the capacity of a truck.

For example, looking at the data plate (left) you'll see that the forklift it has a 4000 pound capacity (with a 24 inch load center), to a maximum height of 144 inches.

Now here's your quiz question: You've been tasked to move a container which measures 60" long and its weight is about 3500 pounds. Using the information provided on the data plate (pictured), use a *field calculation to estimate lifting.

Is this load safe to lift? You may use <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/pit/operations/loadcomposition.html> to help you with your decision. Let's see how you did (answer on the next page)

* field calculations are used to estimate the reduced lifting capacity if manufacturer's instructions are not available. Although this calculation method will not produce exact load reduction figures, you may use this method only as a guideline, but you should consult the forklift manufacturer for more precise information.

Reporting Hazards

One of the topics that we mention in the Annual Basic Safety Training is that all employees have rights and responsibilities for creating and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace. Specifically, you have the right to a safe workplace, and you may stop work and alert your supervisor when you recognize unsafe actions or conditions. But along with these rights you also have a responsibility to work safety and report these unsafe conditions to your supervisor.

If you see a hazard (unsafe act or condition), alert your supervisor immediately if you are unable to eliminate it. If at any time you are not satisfied with the action taken or the results of the follow-up, you should report the concern to the Safety Department or your Campus Safety Contact Person for follow-up.



Answer to the Quiz Question Above

The load is **not safe to lift**.

If an operator is operating a 4000 pound capacity truck (with a 24 inch load center), the maximum allowable load moment is 96,000 inch pounds (4,000 times 24). The load that the employee wants to move is 60 inches long (30 inch load center), therefore, the maximum that this load can weigh is 3200 pounds (96,000 divided by 30). Or you can equate it using 24 (actual load center) divided by 30 (new load center) times 4000 (the forklift capacity) = 3200 (the new capacity)

If you need any further assistance in developing your safety program or other questions, please don't hesitate to contact Safety and Environmental Management at 581-4055 or email us at sem@maine.edu. For on campus support, contact your campus safety representative.

UMaine StormReady Recertification

The University of Maine has recently recertified as a Storm Ready campus, a designation held since 2011. This recognition is awarded through the National Weather Service office in Caribou, Maine. Currently UMaine, UMFK, and UMPI are Storm Ready Campuses. The StormReady program helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property--before, during and after the event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs.



If you would like more information on how your campus can become a StormReady campus, visit the StormReady webpage www.weather.gov/stormready.

Source: StormReady information provided by National Weather Service.

What Were They Thinking?



I found a forklift with the keys still in it... Long story short, I now own a Redbox and a Coke machine.



