

Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments Torrance - Without forklift attachments, many jobs would be difficult, if not impossible. The wide range of forklift attachments make most jobs not only possible but also safer and quicker. Besides regular forklift training, operators also need to undergo proper training for every attachment they will be using. There are many non-hydraulic attachments and hydraulic attachments available for forklift attachments. They provide many benefits including decreasing fuel consumption, time, man-power, damage to stock and employee accidents. 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. Not considering these issues will drastically increase the safety risks associated with operating the machine and its attachments. This can increase risks relating to operator safety, forklift damage, stock damage and more. 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. Accurate lifting capacities are only available from the forklift manufacturers. 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 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. While not all forklift attachments are hydraulic, hydraulic attachments often include more features than the forklift has valves. 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. 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. Because these hoses replace the existing hoses housed in the forklift, the hoses are safe from damage while keeping the operator's field of vision clear. 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. Firstly, it is important to note that any kind of forklift attachment will reduce the machine's nominal load rating. 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. Secondly, the forklift's center of gravity will be affected when any forklift attachment is added. The forklift's stability will be reduced and this needs to be computed for safety. Due to the attachment weight being situated in front of the fulcrum point, the forklift needs to be driven as though it is partially loaded even when it is empty. 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. 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** Discover a list of common forklift attachments and how they are utilized below. There are numerous forklift attachments and this list will cover the most popular. Forklift attachments are designed to increase job efficiency for many applications. **SIDESHIFTER:** The sideshifter enables the forklift to move laterally for easier load placement without having to reposition the entire machine. **FORK POSITIONERS:** Moves the forks together or apart in relation to one another to adjust for various load types. **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. There is a rotator feature on numerous attachments. **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:** 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:** Long, metal pole used in place of forks to lift rolled items such as carpet or 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:** 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:** Allows for quick transfer of loose or liquid contents in large containers. **MAN BASKET:** Lift platform meant for lifting workers and complete with railings and brackets for 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:** 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:** Allow movement of a single pallet or platform or two pallets side by side. With the correct attachment/s a single forklift can be used for multiple specialist materials handling tasks alongside normal lifting tasks, thus reducing the need for owning a specialist unit alongside a normal unit and the larger running and maintenance costs associated with multiple units. **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.