

# SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY



## MOBILE WORK EQUIPMENT

Did you know that all forklift trucks **MUST** by law, now have seat restraints fitted? As an employer it is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure that measures are in place to safeguard the health and safety of anyone on the work premises.

### LIFT TRUCK SEAT RESTRAINTS

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 require that restraining systems, such as seat belts, must be provided to prevent the crushing of the operator between the lift truck and the ground where there is a foreseeable risk of the truck overturning.

**An operator restraint is required in a lift truck in most circumstances:-**

1. When there is a risk of injury due to overturning (involving either 90° or 180° roll-over) and where the operator may be trapped between the lift truck and the ground.

**OR**

2. If the lift truck has a cab and is being used in situations where it can roll over through 180° or more. This is because the operator may be flung around in the overturn.

The type of forklift trucks most at risk of overturning are the centre-control, seated, counter balanced lift trucks below 10,000kg, which includes masted and variable-reach lift trucks, such as telehandlers. Side loaders are also at risk of overturning.

**The requirement for operator restraints also applies to most types of hired mobile work equipment.**

**More advice overleaf →**

## EXCEPTIONS

An operator restraint is **not** required in the following circumstances:-

1. If the stability of the lift truck is sufficient to prevent overturning in **any** situation in which it is used. This is only likely when trucks are used on level, smooth surfaces only and their speeds are restricted within safe limits.
2. On mast trucks which can only roll over through 90° and the operator can not be trapped between the truck and the ground. For example, if the truck has a cab with self-closing and latching doors with no facilities for retaining them open whilst in use.
3. Side-seated operated lift trucks and rear cab access lift trucks, e.g. mast reach trucks.
4. Stand-on operated lift trucks.



**Where there is a risk of overturning and an operator restraint can not be fitted, for example because of the age of the truck, you will need to use a different lift truck with a restraining system fitted.**

- The operator restraint should be worn at all times unless the operator is having to dismount repeatedly or the truck is used on a smooth, firm level surface and is operated in a safe manner with minimal likelihood of overturning.
- The technical requirements for seat belts and their anchorage are covered by ISO 6683:1981 and ISO 3776:1989.
- Rollover protection and/or operator restraints are also required for other types of mobile work equipment. Detailed information on the regulations and guidance on what you need to do to comply is contained in the Approved Code of Practice & Guidance (Ref L22) "Safe Use of Work Equipment". This publication is available from HSE Books (see below) and most good booksellers.

**For further advice on mobile work equipment safety issues or any other aspect of health and safety, you can contact the Health and Safety section of Environmental Health Services on (0113) 24-77791 or [env.health@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:env.health@leeds.gov.uk)**

**Recommended reading for employers and those in charge of work premises with mobile equipment. Approved Code of Practice & Guidance (Ref L22) "Safe Use of Work Equipment" is available from HSE Books on 01787 881165 or [www.hsebooks.co.uk](http://www.hsebooks.co.uk) and most good booksellers.**