

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We have put together some frequently asked questions about forklift training. However, if you have any more specific questions please feel free to contact us on **01787 375455 / 07432 193961** or email us at steve@morgantrainingsolutions.co.uk and we will be happy to discuss your query in more detail.

What will I need for you to be able to train at my premises?

All that we require for on-site training is the following:

- *A safe reliable truck for the duration of the course (**with a current LOLER certificate**)*
- *A flat area for steering exercises inside or out*
- *A safe area set aside from the main working area and preferably under cover*
- *A supply of empty pallets uniform in size (minimum of 15)*
- *2 or 3 realistic loads and an area of pallet racking if available*
- *An office or room to carry out the theory element of the course*
- *A basic understanding of the English language and/or a translator present*

What Forklift Training courses do you offer?

We can train your staff on any type of forklift truck and many other types of material handling equipment including cranes and MEWPs. Training courses tend to fall into four main categories:

- **A Novice Operator** – *someone who has never operated a forklift truck before.*
- **An Experienced Operator** – *someone who has operated a forklift truck and is competent, but has never been certificated.*
- **A Safety Refresher** – *someone who has documentary evidence of previous UK-issued certification, but needs to have their operating skills refreshed in line with current regulations and/or insurer' requirements.*
- **A Conversion** – *someone who has been certificated on one category of forklift truck, but now needs to drive a different type or size forklift truck.*

Do Employers have to train their Operators?

Yes. In the UK reference to this is made under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, the HSE Approved Code of Practice for Rider Operated Lift Trucks, the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998 and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998.

A forklift truck is classed as a piece of work equipment. Under those regulations you must provide documentary evidence that the training has been satisfactorily completed and certification provides documentary evidence that your operators are competent to operate a forklift truck.

Will a Counterbalance certificate also cover operating a Reach truck or similar?

No. Counterbalance and Reach trucks are classed as different machines and do not have the same operating procedures. However, if they are already certificated, it will only require a conversion course to enable them to drive both types of forklift.

What is a ‘current LOLER certificate’?

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) place duties on people and companies who own, operate or have control over lifting equipment. This includes all businesses and organisations whose employees use lifting equipment, whether owned by them or not. In most cases, lifting equipment is also work equipment so the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) will also apply (including both inspection and maintenance).

All lifting operations that involve lifting equipment must be properly planned by a competent person, appropriately supervised and carried out in a safe manner. A ‘current LOLER certificate’ is almost like an MOT for your car; it signals to both us and the HSE that your truck is properly maintained and monitored for faults that may in turn lead to machine failure and possible accidents if not properly supervised. You must also carry out Pre-Shift Checks on a daily basis, something that will be covered further on any of our training courses.

How often should operators have Safety Refresher training?

Legally there is no set frequency for Safety Refresher training. However, the HSE recommends it between 3 and 5 years, or as specified by your Risk Assessment and/or insurer’s requirements. Insurer’s requirements are the real focus here – you MUST check with them before presuming the frequency of which your site requires Safety Refresher training. The Code of Practice states that employers should continually monitor their forklift operators to ensure competence. It is usually only a 1 day course for up to 3 operators.

Does a Counterbalance certificate cover all sized Counterbalance lift trucks?

No. The ABA (Accrediting Bodies Association of Workplace Transport) of whom ITSSAR operate under has 3 different size categories for Counterbalance lift trucks (the same goes for most other forms of mechanical handling or plant equipment).

Those categories, with respects to Counterbalance lift trucks, are as follows; up-to and including 5 Tonne (B1), Over 5 Tonne and up-to and including 15 Tonne (B2) and Over 15 Tonne (B3). Hence, to operate each of these you would have to undertake a conversion course for each of the respective categories once initially certificated.

Does my certification from abroad enable me to operate a forklift truck in the UK?

No. Under current legislation, operators must hold valid UK-issued certification in order to be able to operate a forklift truck or similar throughout Britain. The same holds for any Safety Refresher training. Whilst you may hold a valid certificate that was awarded abroad, it does not mean that you have covered the basic skills that a course in the UK requires – hence, whilst you may still be eligible for an Experienced Operators course, you would be unable to be certificated as a Safety Refresher.