

Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments Colorado - Many different jobs would be impossible without the help of forklift attachments. Forklift attachments make many jobs safer, easier and quicker to complete. Forklift operators require training for each attachment they will be using as well as their general forklift training. 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 replace existing attachments or may be added to a machine that doesn't already 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. 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. Further safety factors must also be taken into consideration, which will be discussed in greater detail below.

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. Online calculators are available from manufacturers of forklift attachment's to provide estimates on every attachments' lifting capacity. 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 newly upgraded specification plate will replace the original plate and needs to be installed showing the new forklift rating. Equipment Upgrades

When dealing with forklift attachments it is important to note that a forklift's hydraulic function is made up of a valve on the forklift with a lever located close to the operator which provides two passages of pressurized hydraulic oil to power the attachment features. While not all forklift attachments are hydraulic, hydraulic attachments often include more features than the forklift has valves. In this circumstance, it is common to add one or more valves as needed. There are several methods of adding a valve. The manufacturers of forklifts create accessories to simplify hose and valve routing. However, the parts and labor to install these can be so expensive as to make this option impractical. Another possibility is to install a cable reel, solenoid valve and hose to divert oil from an alternate location. 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 Prior to fitting any type of forklift attachment, proper training must be obtained. Operators need to be competent with removing, operating and fitting the attachment before using it. Before using any forklift attachment, two safety issues need consideration. First, any attachment on a forklift will reduce its nominal load rating, as mentioned above. The nominal load rating is computed with a stock fork carriage and forks. However, the actual load rating may be substantially lower. Using any type of forklift attachment will affect the center of gravity on the machine. Obviously, the stability of the forklift is reduced. 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. Operators need to travel gently and slowly every time they use an attachment and take extra care while turning. Check the forklift's capacity to ensure that every attachment is listed on the data plate. To maintain safety, special checks need to be completed before using any forklift attachment. The forklift attachment needs to be the right one for the type of forklift being used, appropriate for the load at hand, correctly attached, locked in place and permitted on the data plate of the forklift. List of Common

Forklift Attachments Below is a list of popular forklift attachments and their general uses. 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: 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 feature cargo dimensions useful for creating better efficiency in trucks, trailers and warehouses. This technology is often used alongside billing systems that monitor volume. ROTATOR: Assists in righting skids that have tilted, handling custom load requirements and quick unloading. Numerous attachments have a rotator feature. ROLL AND BARREL CLAMP: The roll and barrel clamp allows the forklift to grasp rounded loads including barrels. It is outfitted with different pressure settings to facilitate fragile options and often has a rotate function to simplify horizontal and vertical positioning. 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: Slip sheeter or push-pull attachment lets the operator move slip sheets with a clamping option instead of pallets. It can pull the slip sheet onto thin and wide metal forks to facilitate pushing or loading. The attachment variations include "Save," where the slip sheet is removed to be used again or "Standard." DRUM HANDLER: The drum handler is built for holding drums. It may have arms that encompass the drum for transporting or it may feature a spring-loaded jaw to grip the drum's top lip. 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: The telescopic forks are used in locations with a two pallet stacking design where one shelf is placed right behind another with no aisle between them. SCALES: Scales are helpful for allowing operators to transport pallets while weighing them. This stops the need for interrupting work with regular travel to the scales. It can be used in legal-for-trade weights for operations that bill by how much items weigh. 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: Allows safe and speedy removal of waste to the appropriate skip or waste compactor. Skips are available in a roll-forward type and a bottom-emptying type. BOOMS AND JIBS: Jibs and boom offer extended forklift reach for transporting loads that are stacked deep or high or that are suspended. There are reach-over, low profile, precision lifting and extendable length options.