

Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments El Cajon - 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. Many hydraulic and non-hydraulic forklift attachments are available. They offer numerous benefits by decreasing man-power, employee accidents, fuel consumption, damage to stock and time. Equipment Considerations Forklift attachments can be switched out to replace existing attachments or may be used on machines that don't currently 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. Failing to take these aforementioned factors into consideration can create extra safety hazards and risks for the operator, the forklift, its' attachments and the stock. Extra safety factors must be considered which will be discussed in more detail. Forklift Rating and Re-Rating Manufacturers give forklifts a lift capacity rating that needs to be considered and adjusted when adding or changing forklift attachments. There are calculators available online from forklift attachment manufacturers to estimate each attachments particular lifting capacity. However, only the forklift manufacturer can provide accurate lifting capacities. 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. Once the forklift manufacturer has re-rated the machine, it will ideally have a new specification plate that is factory authorized. The upgraded specification plate replaces the original plate and needs to be installed with the new forklift rating showing. 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. Note that not every attachment is hydraulic; however, the hydraulic attachments provide more features compared to the number of valves the forklift offers. In these instances, one or more valves need to be added. There are several methods of adding a valve. There are many ways to add a forklift valve. Equipment manufacturers make forklift accessories for hose routing and valve placement. There are plenty of labor and parts involved which can be costly enough to make this an impractical solution. Other options include adding a cable reel and a hose in conjunction with a solenoid valve to divert oil from an existing location. The main issue is that the cable reels and hose may block the view of the operator and these items can be damaged. There are kits available that use a solenoid valve and specialty hoses that allow for the reinforced braid to double as an electrical conduit. These hoses are designed to replace existing ones and stay free from being damaged. The operator can enjoy a clear view with this option. 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. There are 2 vital safety factors to think about before operating any type of forklift attachment. The nominal load rating will be reduced on the forklift once any attachment is applied. Forks and a stock fork carriage compute the nominal load rating; although, the precise load rating may be much lower. Secondly, the forklift's center of gravity will be affected when any forklift attachment is added. Obviously, the stability of the forklift is reduced. Because the weight of the attachment will be placed in front of the forklift's fulcrum point, it is necessary to drive the forklift as though it is partially loaded, even prior to picking up a load. Operators need to travel gently and slowly every time they use an attachment and take extra care while turning. Every attachment should be listed on the forklift capacity data plate. Certain safety checks need to be done before using any kind of attachment. The forklift attachment must be permitted on the forklift's data plate, locked properly, correctly attached, appropriate for the particular load and appropriate for the type of forklift being used. List of Common Forklift Attachments A list of the most common attachments and their general uses are set out below. This is just a sample list of

some of the most popular forklift attachments. 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:** The fork positioners adjust for different loads by moving the forks together or apart in relation to each other. **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:** Assists in righting skids that have tilted, handling custom load requirements and quick unloading. Numerous attachments have a rotator feature. **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 is for grasping loads with a squared shape. It also features pressure settings to handle bales, boxes and cartons. **POLE ATTACHMENTS:** Pole attachments are placed where the forks would normally be and are used for transporting carpet and rolled up linoleum. **SLIP SHEETER OR PUSH-PULL:** The slip sheeter or push-pull allows the operator to move sheets by clamping onto slip sheets. This is an option instead of relying on pallets. The slip sheet can be moved onto thin and wide metal forks to simplify loading or unloading by pushing the slip sheet. The “Save” variation allows the slip sheet to be taken off for reuse later. The “Standard,” attachment variation is another option. **DRUM HANDLER:** The drum handler is specifically designed to transport drums. It might feature arms to hold the drum or be a spring-loaded model to grip the top lid. **DRUM AND STORAGE BIN TIPPER:** Allows for quick transfer of loose or liquid contents in large containers. **MAN BASKET:** The lift platform known as a man basket is designed to transport workers vertically. It is outfitted with brackets and railings to anchor 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:** The single-double forks can be used alongside regular lifting tasks. It allows a single pallet or platform to move or two pallets beside each other. Additional attachments can be used and this replaces the need for having a separate specialty unit; thus reducing maintenance and operating costs associated with more than one machine. **SNOW PLOW:** Designed for snow removal and distribution but can also be used to move other types of loose material. **SKIPS:** Skips facilitate fast and safe removal of waste to the proper waste or skip compactor. Skips are either a bottom-emptying model or a roll-forward type. **BOOMS AND JIBS:** Allow for extended reach of a forklift to transport suspended loads or loads that are stacked high or deep. They are available in different setups such as reach over and precision lifting or low profile fixed and extendable lengths.