



STAY COMPLIANT WITH FORKLIFT LOLER INSPECTIONS AND CHECKS FOR FORKLIFT ATTACHMENTS

Stay compliant with LOLER inspections and safety checks for forklift attachments.

Safety is crucial in the materials handling industry, and an important part of that is complying with the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER). Lifting equipment and accessories, such as forklift attachments, must undergo a forklift LOLER inspection every 6 months. But what exactly is a forklift LOLER inspection, and why are checks for forklift attachments so important? Let's take a look.

WHAT IS A FORKLIFT LOLER INSPECTION?

LOLER checks for forklift attachments make sure your equipment is fit for purpose. The operator of the equipment is responsible for making sure routine inspections take place every six months. A forklift LOLER inspection isn't just a legal requirement - it's a key step in ensuring both the safety of your employees and the efficiency of your operations. These inspections help identify potential issues before they become serious problems, preventing costly downtime and preventing injury.

THE FORKLIFT LOLER INSPECTION PROCES

We understand the importance of forklift LOLER inspections. That's why you need a comprehensive inspection service to make the process as thorough and simple as possible. A thorough examination inspection service is very straightforward - you simply get an inspection and receive a report with the results. Here's what you can expect

1. **On-site inspection:** By a trained Consolidated Fork Truck Services (CFTS) inspector will visit your site to conduct the forklift LOLER inspection.

2. **Thorough Examination:** During the LOLER inspection, a inspector will perform checks for your forklift attachments. They will examine:- The operation of the equipment
 - Its fitness for purpose
 - Signs of wear and tear
 - Potential faults
 - Overall safety
3. **Detailed report:** Following the forklift LOLER inspection, you will receive a comprehensive report that outlines the condition of your forklift attachments. This will highlight any necessary actions you need to take and provide the date for your next forklift attachment safety checks, as required by LOLER.

REPAIR WORK FOLLOWING CHECKS FOR FORKLIFT ATTACHMENTS

We know that time is money, and minimising downtime is important for your operations. Most of the time, repairs can be carried out there and then following a forklift LOLER inspection. A CFTS Inspector has the equipment to carry out regular maintenance and fix issues, helping get your forklift attachments back in top working condition.

BEYOND THE FORKLIFT LOLER INSPECTION

Forklift LOLER inspections should always be carried out every 6 months. But it makes good sense to stay on top of the condition of your forklift attachments between these inspections to prevent damage and accidents. We recommend that operators perform daily checks for forklift attachments before using them. These should include:

- Ensuring the attachment is fixed securely
- Checking for any obstructions in the mechanism
- Ensuring hinges are all operating correctly
- Removing any debris from the attachment that could cause issues
- Confirming that the attachment is being used for its intended purpose

EXPERT FORKLIFT LOLER INSPECTION AND CHECKS FOR FORKLIFT ATTACHMENTS

Safety Checks Needed Before Using A Forklift Attachment



Forklift attachments are used by many companies on a daily basis and due to familiarity, it can be easy to become complacent when it comes to safety requirements. If used incorrectly, forklift trucks can do some serious damage - potentially causing serious harm to yourself and others. Here are our top tips for ensuring safety of your forklift attachment.

Check the Forklift Attachment for Damage or Wear

As with any equipment, forklift attachments must be checked regularly for signs of damage or excessive wear and tear. Damaged or excessively worn forklift attachments designed for lifting (e.g. forklift jibs, forklift hooks) can, for example, affect its structural integrity - posing a risk of failure once the attachment is under load. Similarly, wear and tear of safety areas such as the locks and securements could result in the attachment disengaging from the forklift truck, potentially causing a serious accident.

Check the Load & Capacity of the Forklift Attachment

It's important to know the limitations of your forklift attachment with regards its lifting capacity. Lifting beyond the capacity of the attachment can damage it and significantly increase the risk to health and safety. The Safe Working Load of the forklift attachment should be clearly labeled and identifiable on the product at all times.

Make Sure the Forklift Attachment and the Forklift Forks Are Correctly Matched



With the majority of forklift attachments being of the fork-mounted variety (where the operator drives the forks of the forklift into the pockets of the attachment) it's important to ensure the sizing of the attachment fits that of the forklift truck. For example, using fork pockets that are too large for the forks, any securing methods on the attachments could be compromised.

Check Your Forklift Truck's De-Rated Load Capacity



When fitting a forklift attachment, the capacity of the forklift truck is affected. This is known as the 'De-Rated' capacity. The weight of the attachment, combined with the weight of the product to be handled and the distance from the attachment to the forklift truck will all have a bearing on the forklift's lifting capacity. It's important, therefore, that you check how your attachment will affect your truck's safe handling capacity. If in doubt, always check with your forklift supplier.

Is the Forklift Attachment Fit for Purpose?

Never 'make do' with using a forklift attachment that has not been specially designed for the material handling task at hand. Using an attachment in the wrong way can hurt you and others around you, not to mention cause damage to the product and potentially render insurance invalid.

Can the Attachment Be Safely Secured?



Securing the forklift attachment to the truck safely is paramount. The majority of fork-mounted attachments will come with either retaining pins, retaining bars (both of which lock behind the heel of the fork) or 'T' Screw clamps (which clamp down onto the top of the fork). Safety chains that fasten to the forklift carriage may also be used on some attachments such as forklift tipping skips for added safety. Never use your forklift attachment if it is missing any of these securing methods.

Check When Your Latest LOLER Inspection Was Carried Out



Under LOLER

98, your forklift attachment must undergo a periodic Thorough Examination (6 monthly or yearly dependant on the type of attachment) which is akin to a car's MOT. If your forklift attachment has not undergone this examination and inspection in accordance with the schedule, you may be at risk of prosecution by the HSE. It can also invalidate insurance and put you and others around you at higher risk. Look out for the Thorough Examination date reminder which should be easily identifiable on your attachment.

Does the Attachment Have a Valid Test Certificate

Without a valid test certificate, your forklift attachment would be deemed illegal and not fit for use. Any of these could impact the validity of your test certificate:

- Has your attachment been inspected in accordance with its Thorough Examination obligations?
- Has your attachment undergone any remedial work and not been recertified?

Conclusion

Whatever industry you work in, whether construction, logistics, or pharmaceutical, you have a duty of care to ensure that your attachment and all equipment used with your forklift truck are legal, fit for purpose, and above all, safe. For any questions about LOLER certification, load handling capacities, or design or securing methods, please contact a member of the our Attachments team today.

CFTS, the body behind the UK's national scheme for the Thorough Examination of lift trucks, has issued a reminder to truck owners and operators: Thorough Examination is not just for trucks; attachments require inspection too.

Under UK health and safety law, fork lift truck users are legally obliged to ensure that their trucks receive a thorough examination, at least once every 12 months (more frequently in some cases). Attachments – such as platforms, booms, cranes, grabbers, fork extensions, etc – also require inspection, and failure to comply could lead to prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

When attachments are permanently fixed to the truck, they should be inspected as part of the truck's thorough examination. However, non-permanent attachments are not included in this, and must be inspected by a competent person *at least* twice a year.

Fork trucks must comply with LOLER and PUWER. As the HSE states: "LOLER 1998 covers lifting equipment, and PUWER 1998, deals with all other safety-related items, such as brakes, steering and tyres." As part of the lifting mechanism, permanent attachments must be inspected along with the rest of the truck.

Where, following thorough examination or inspection of lifting equipment, a defect is identified - which in the opinion of the person undertaking the examination or inspection - is (or could become) a danger to people, you as user (employer or self-employed person) should be notified immediately. **You must then take effective action to manage risk by ensuring the lifting equipment is not used until the defect is remedied.** Such defects must be confirmed in writing in the report, even if it is remedied immediately (eg by destruction of a sling). The person making the report must also notify the relevant enforcing authority with a copy of the report. Enforcing authorities may follow up such reports to check that risks are being adequately managed.

A Thorough Examination (LOLER) is similar to an MOT for your car. It is legally required if you own, lease or hire a forklift truck.



Did you know that a Thorough Examination (LOLER) inspection is required by law on all of your lifting equipment? Not everybody is aware of this, and many organisations are running their trucks without a valid Thorough Examination certificate meaning they are not only risking the safety of their trucks and operators but also breaking the law. In this blog post we want to provide you with seven facts on Thorough Examinations.

Thorough examination - our seven facts

1. LOLER inspections are a legal requirement for all trucks with forks.
2. Thorough Examination ensures your equipment meets the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 - Regulation 9 (LOLER98) and the Provision of Use of Work Regulations 1998 - Regulation 6 (PUWER98) health and safety regulations.

All new trucks are issued with a 'CE Certificate of Conformity'. The first thorough examination is required 4, 6 or 12 months from the date of conformity, depending on the truck specification and site conditions.

3. The site operator is legally responsible for making sure a Thorough Examination is carried out irrespective of the ownership of the equipment, purchased or hired.
4. Pallet trucks lifting higher than 300mm from the ground require a LOLER98 inspection. Low lift pallet trucks operating up to 300mm require a periodic safety inspection, at least once a year, under the PUWER98 regulations.
5. Not all Thorough Examinations cover both LOLER98 and PUWER98 regulations, which could leave you liable to HSE enforcement. A CFTS accredited company will always ensure all checks are carried out.
6. Many companies assume their insurance or material handling provider undertakes the examinations as part of their annual plant inspection, often this is not the case.

I rent my truck, do I need a thorough examination inspection?

It is the responsibility of the site owner to ensure that these inspections are carried out. That applies to all equipment whether it is owned or on a long-term hire agreement. If a truck is being rented on short-term hire for periods of up to one year, it is then the responsibility of the rental company to ensure that an inspection is carried out on the equipment; but it is preferential for the hirer to always check this and request a copy of the latest inspection report.

Thorough examination

Thorough examination of industrial lift trucks is required under health and safety law: LOLER 1998, which covers lifting equipment, and PUWER 1998, which deals with all other safety-related items, such as brakes, steering and tyres. Your regular inspections as part of a preventive maintenance scheme or scheduled service are not a thorough examination. For more information see [L117 Rider-operated lift trucks: Operator training and safe use](#) and [INDG422 Thorough examination of lifting equipment \(PDF\)](#) .