



What are the licensing requirements for *industrial lift truck*, *forklift truck* and *multi purpose tool carriers*?

At present, the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 (the regulations) require operators of *industrial lift trucks* to have documentary evidence that they satisfy the competency requirements of the *National Guidelines for Occupational Health and Safety Competency Standards for the Operation of Loadshifting Equipment and Other Types of Specified Equipment [NOHSC: 7019 (1992)]* (r4.55).

The regulations also define an *industrial lift truck* as meaning:

powered mobile plant designed to move goods, materials or equipment and which is equipped with an elevating load carriage and which usually has a load-holding attachment but does not include a mobile crane or earthmoving machinery (regulation 4.1).

From 1 October 2007, the National Licensing Standard replaces *industrial lift truck* with the following definitions. –

forklift truck - covers the operation of a powered industrial truck equipped with a mast and an elevating load carriage to which is attached a pair of forkarms or other attachment.

order picking forklift truck - covers the operation of a powered industrial truck of a type where the operator's control arrangement is incorporated with the load carriage/lifting media, and elevates with it.

The National Licensing Standard's definition of *forklift truck* relates to forklifts (commonly known as counter balance forklifts) and includes the requirement for the truck to be equipped with a 'mast'. As the existing definition of industrial lift truck does not include the requirement for a 'mast', the regulations currently have a broader coverage than will apply under the National Licensing Standard. By adopting the National Licensing Standard's definition of *forklift truck*, Western Australia will become consistent with all other states and territories.

As a result of Western Australia's definition of *industrial lift truck*, there has been some uncertainty about certification requirements for operators of multipurpose machines (also known as telescopic handlers and multi-purpose tool carriers and integrated tool carriers). These multipurpose machines can be fitted with various attachments such as those described below:

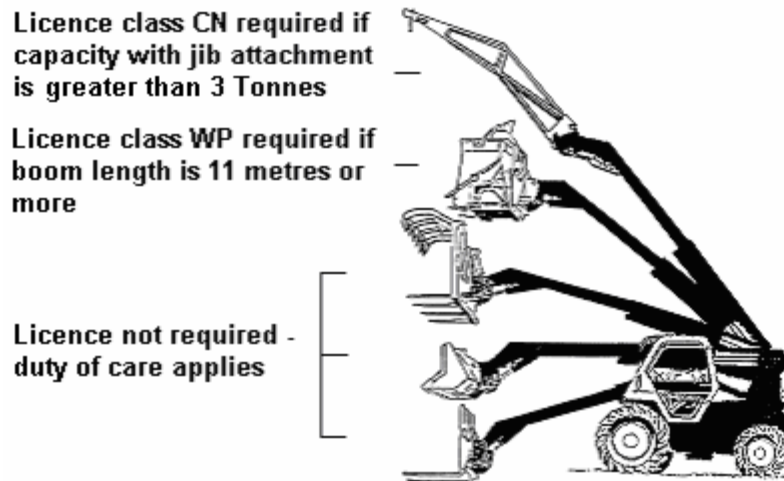
- hydraulic winch
- hoisting block & hook
- bucket
- forks
- jib
- bucket with grab
- grab
- elevating work platform
- earthmoving blade
- concrete skip
- earthmoving hoe
- tyre handler

Under the National Licensing Standard which commences on 1 October 2007, licences are required when a multipurpose machine is configured as described below:

- Non-slewing mobile (greater than 3 Tonne) crane with a boom and/or jib (licence class CN).

- Elevating work platform where operating controls are in the basket and the boom length has a capacity of 11 metres or more (licence class WP).

A licence is not required when the plant is fitted with other attachments i.e. buckets and tynes or forkarms etc. To illustrate, in the diagram below, only the top two attachments require a licence (crane and elevating work platform).



Duty of Care

The person who employs operators of multipurpose machines, or has control of the workplace where multipurpose machines are operated, has duties under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*. These duties include providing information, instruction training and supervision as is necessary to ensure the operators can perform their work in such a manner that they are not exposed to hazards. To fulfil this obligation an appropriate risk assessment must be done to determine the additional information, instruction, training and supervision on the various attachment(s) fitted to any multipurpose machines which must be provided to the operator. This must occur even though the operator may be the holder of a relevant class of licence for high risk work.

Further Information About Forklifts

Further information about how forklift operators are affected by the National Licensing Standard can be found at:

<http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au/newsite/worksafe/content/certreglicn/licnfork0005.html>

Assistance

WorkSafe has developed a number of publications including 'Frequently Asked Questions' to assist people to identify how these changes will affect them. This information can be obtained found at:

<http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au/newsite/worksafe/content/certreglicn/licnna0001.html>

People with particular issues can also contact WorkSafe's Business Service Centre on (08) 9327 8728 or by email to wslicensing@docep.wa.gov.au.