

# SAFE WORK PRACTICES

## FORKLIFT TRUCKS – FORK SAFETY

*\*This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

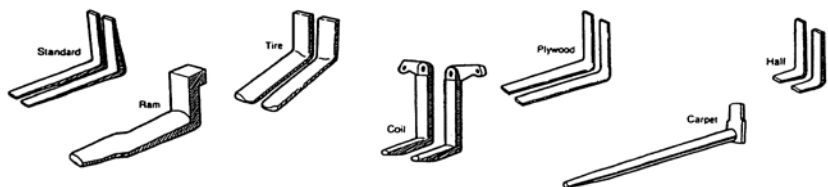
**Fork Inspection Schedule:** Under normal operating conditions, forks should be inspected pre-shift and every six months.

**Pre-shift:** A visual inspection of forks (by operator) on the pre-startup check with special attention to permanent deformation and cracks.

**Six Months:** A thorough inspection of forks looking for cracks and deformation. This inspection may be required more often depending on the use of the equipment.

1. Check fork blades for wear. Forks are constantly subjected to abrasion by concrete floors, steel shelving, etc. This abrasion can reduce the thickness of a fork until it is not capable of lifting to design capacity.
2. Check for distortion. Forks can be bent out of shape. Depending on the degree of distortion, some forks can be straightened. Contact fork manufacturer for further information on straightening forks.
3. Check for cracks in heel and hanger. Cracks may appear on forks where (a) attachments are welded on or (b) in the inside radius of the bend area. Cracks can be discovered by periodic inspection using a test (magnetic particle or dye penetrant). These blemishes may be ground out and polished by approved grinding methods, depending on the depth of the crack.
4. Replace with quality forks. When you order or reorder forks, make sure you are getting high quality forks that will perform your lifting jobs in a safe and dependable manner. Insist on forks that are forged or have an upset heel. Always replace both forks at the same time.
5. Use the proper forks. Custom designed forks are needed for:

- unusual lifting conditions
- spark free areas
- high heat furnace areas
- special object lifting



### DON'T:

- Overload. Operators should be aware of the capacity of the forklift, as well as the capacity of the forks. Overloading may bend and weaken forks. Periodic inspection for abrasion and bent forks should be carried out.
- Repair your own forks. The repair of forks should not be undertaken by anyone other than the fork manufacturer.
- Modify forks without consulting with your forklift supplier.