

Forklift Inspection Checklist

Checklist · 25 items · 9 sections

OSHA requires forklift operators to inspect their equipment before each shift (29 CFR 1910.178(q)(7)). This forklift inspection checklist covers every required item: from forks and mast to controls, brakes, tires, and fluid levels: to keep workers safe and your operation compliant.

Open the editable version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/forklift-inspection-checklist>

FORKS & ATTACHMENTS

- Check forks: no cracks, bends, or excessive wear; heel section not worn more than 10%
HIGH
- Forks are level and positioned evenly: not twisted or uneven
HIGH
- Carriage is secure: all hook latches and pins in place
HIGH
- Any attachments are properly secured and rated for the load
HIGH

MAST & HYDRAULICS

- Mast operates smoothly: no unusual noise, sticking, or jerking
HIGH
- Check hydraulic fluid level: top up if low
HIGH
- Check for hydraulic leaks: hoses, cylinders, fittings
HIGH
- Overhead guard is securely in place: no cracks or damage
HIGH

ENGINE / POWER SOURCE

- Check engine oil level (propane/diesel) or battery charge level (electric)
HIGH
- Check coolant level (LPG/diesel forklifts)
HIGH
- Check LPG tank: hoses secure, no leaks (smell test), gauge reading
HIGH

HIGH

- Electric forklift: check battery level, electrolyte level, and terminal connections

HIGH

TIRES & WHEELS

- Check all four tires: adequate tread, no cuts, correct inflation (or solid tires not damaged)

HIGH

- Lug nuts are all present and tight

HIGH

BRAKES

- Service brakes work: firm pedal, vehicle stops straight

HIGH

- Parking brake holds vehicle on incline: engages and releases fully

HIGH

CONTROLS

- Steering is responsive: no excessive play or pulling

HIGH

- Lift, lower, tilt, and side-shift controls respond properly

HIGH

LIGHTS & SAFETY DEVICES

- Horn works

HIGH

- Headlights and taillights work

HIGH

- Backup alarm and strobe/warning light work

HIGH

OPERATOR SAFETY

- Seatbelt or restraint system works and is not frayed

HIGH

- Operator compartment is clean: no debris on floor or controls

DOCUMENTATION

- Nameplate/data plate is legible: load capacity chart is present

HIGH

- Document any defects found: report immediately to supervisor before operating

HIGH

Do not operate a forklift with any safety defects: tag it out of service until repaired