

WORKING SAFELY ON LOADING DOCKS

Dock, Lift, and Trailer Safety

The loading dock is perhaps the busiest area of any warehouse. Trucks, lifts, trailers, loads, and people are constantly coming and going. Because of the heavy traffic at the loading dock, the potential for accidents and injuries is great. That's why safe practices at the loading dock are critically important. The following guidelines can help you work safely at the loading dock and prevent potential accidents, injuries, and even disability.

Dock Safety

Never store materials in the dock area—the dock should be kept free of obstacles and hazards such as spills. (If spills cannot be cleaned up, they should be clearly marked.) Convex mirrors throughout the area can reduce blind spots and increase visibility. Dock seals (pads or shelters) must be used when the outside environment is different from the inside environment.

Lift Truck Safety

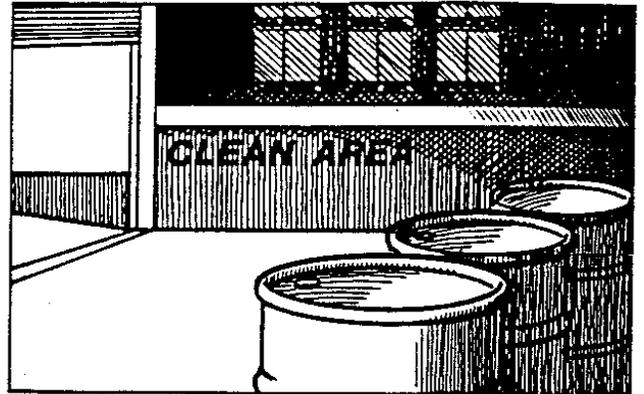
Never operate a lift truck unless you are specifically trained to do so. Always wear seatbelts when operating a lift truck, regardless of how far you're going. Operators should inspect stacked pallets before lifting to make sure they are secure and should not lift the load more than 6-10 inches from the floor during transport. Lift trucks should meet ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standards and should be inspected and maintained on a regularly scheduled basis.

Trailer Safety

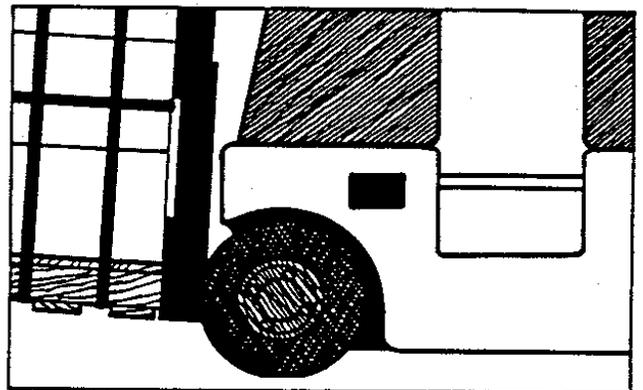
OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) requires that chocks be placed in front of trailer wheels to prevent vehicles from separating from docks. Drivers should be advised of emergency brake and jack measures as well. Many docks also use truck restraint systems. Persons responsible for docking trailers should be trained in the safe use and maintenance of restraint systems.

General Guidelines

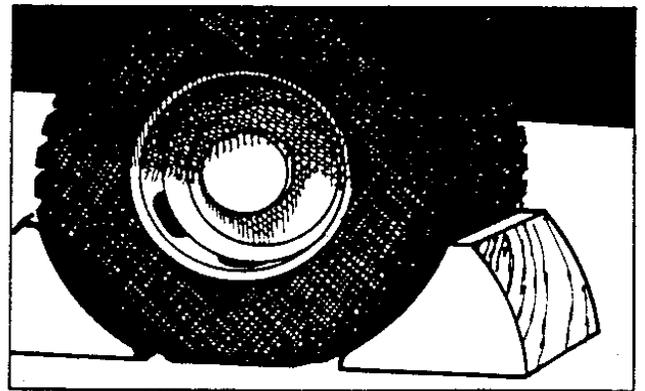
Safety at the loading dock includes dock, lift truck, and trailer safety. It also includes being aware of potential hazards (such as spills, unstable loads, etc.) and how to correct them before an accident can occur. By taking personal responsibility for safety, you can ensure that your loading dock is a safe place to work.



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Lift truck operators should not lift the load more than 6-10 inches from the floor during transport.



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