

Forklift Truck Terms

ANSI B56.1 - American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standard of safety for low-lift and high-lift trucks, approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Axle weight – The distribution of the load to the wheel axles in a weighed down or unloaded condition.

Baseleg Opening - Measurement between the inside of the baselegs, from the narrowest point.

Batching - A compilation of several orders zoned for optimum pick rate, which are sorted at a centralized location.

Bi-directional - The term given to a vehicle which is equipped for forward and reverse travel.

Carriage - A support structure for forks or attachments, generally roller mounted, which travels vertically within the mast of a fork truck.

Carts - Used to hold or transport items selected to fill an order condition, often customized to meet particular needs.

Carton Clamp - Hydraulic operated blade attachment that is fitted to forklift trucks and allows handling of cartons without the use of pallets.

Deck - One or more boards comprising the top or bottom exterior of a pallet.

Drivers cabin – Protects the driver of a forklift truck from weather conditions when outdoors or in a cooler or freezer or falling elements indoors.

Dwell Time - Total stop time spent at pick front.

Forks - Horizontal projections suspended from the carriage to support loads.

Load Center Horizontal - The distance, horizontally, from the fork face and fork heel intersection, to the center of gravity of the load.

Load Center Vertical - The distance, vertically, from the carrying surface of the fork to the center of gravity of the load.

Load Wheel - Referring to reach and straddle trucks, those wheels that are located in the baselegs.

Lowering speed - The velocity in FPM of the lowering load carriage in its operating range, for loaded and empty conditions.

Module - The device or container objects are deposited in or on by the one who picks.

Outside Turning Radius - Half the diameter of a circle made by the outermost projection of the truck.

Pallet - A carrying structure to support loads with stringers and decks with openings to allow pick up by a fork truck.

Pick - The process of locating, counting and retrieving an item for transportation to another area or for customer retrieval.

Rail – Part of a larger side guidance system used for forklift trucks. It also absorbs vehicle weights.

Reverse Steer - A steering option resulting in the vehicle turning to the right when steering wheel is turned counterclockwise and the operator is facing opposite direction of forks.

Sideshift - A very common lift truck attachment, the sideshift device allows the fork carriage to slide left and right to allow more precise placement of a cargo.

Skid – A pallet having no bottom deck.

Stringer - Continuous, longitudinal, solid or notched beam section of the pallet used to support deck components, often recognized by location as the outside or center stringer.

Underwriters Laboratory Listing (UL) - A list of truck models, that is used by insurance companies to determine the rates for coverage. The Underwriter's Laboratories, is an independent testing agency.

Wheel Loading - The measurement of the effect the truck axle loading has on the floor it operates on. The two types of it are: Force: concentrated reaction per tire, in pounds, exerted by wheel on the floor and P.S.I.: the wheel loading, in pounds, divided by the wheel contact area in square inches.

Vertical Lift Travel - The Variance between lowered and fully raised lift positions.

Lift Capacity - The greatest load supported or force handled by the lift.