Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments Rancho Cucamonga - Forklift attachments make a variety of jobs possible. Forklift attachments make many jobs safer, easier and quicker to complete. Forklift operators require training for each attachment they will be using as well as their general forklift training. Many hydraulic and non-hydraulic forklift attachments are available. They offer numerous benefits by decreasing man-power, employee accidents, fuel consumption, damage to stock and time. Equipment Considerations Forklift attachments can be switched out to replace existing attachments or may be used on machines that don't currently have one. Various considerations need to be taken prior to adding or replacing any forklift attachment. These considerations include the kind of forklift, the machine's capacity, the number of hydraulic functions required to power the attachment's and the type of carriage. Not considering these issues will drastically increase the safety risks associated with operating the machine and its attachments. This can increase risks relating to operator safety, forklift damage, stock damage and more. Extra safety factors must be considered which will be discussed in more detail. Forklift Rating and Re-Rating These machines are provided with lift capacity ratings from the manufacturer that need adjusting when changing or adding any forklift attachments. Manufacturers of forklift attachments usually offer calculators available online to estimate the safe lifting capacity when using a particular attachment. However, only the forklift manufacturer can provide accurate lifting capacities. Prior to installing any attachment, it is important to contact the local authorized dealer of the forklift brand being used and request that they re-rate the forklift in accordance with the attachment being considered for use. There will be a new specification plate that is factory authorized once the forklift manufacturer has re-rated the machine. This new specification plate will replace the original plate and should be installed showing the new rating for the forklift. Equipment Upgrades Forklift attachments rely on the machine's hydraulic function and are made up of a forklift valve that has a lever situated close to the operator. This creates two passages of pressurized hydraulic oil for powering the attachment features. Hydraulic forklift attachments typically offer numerous features compared to the number of valves on the forklift. Not ever forklift attachment is hydraulic. When this happens, the forklift needs to have one or more valves added. There are several methods of adding a valve. Forklift manufacturers make accessories for valve and hose routing. Due to the cost of labor and parts required, this process may not be practical. Another possibility is to install a cable reel, solenoid valve and hose to divert oil from an alternate location. However, the operators' view may be compromised due to the cable reels and hose installation. These parts also may be easily damaged by their location. There are kits available that use a solenoid valve and specialty hoses that allow for the reinforced braid to double as an electrical conduit. Because these hoses replace the existing hoses housed in the forklift, the hoses are safe from damage while keeping the operator's field of vision clear. Safety Considerations Before using any type of forklift attachment, adequate training must be fulfilled. An operator must be competent in the fitting, operating and removal of the attachment. Before using any forklift attachment, two safety issues need consideration. Firstly, it is important to note that any kind of forklift attachment will reduce the machine's nominal load rating. Forks and a stock fork carriage compute the nominal load rating; although, the precise load rating may be much lower. Using any type of forklift attachment will affect the center of gravity on the machine. Obviously, the stability of the forklift is reduced. Since the attachment's weight is prominent in front of the fulcrum point on the forklift, the operator needs to drive the machine as though it is partially loaded even before it is carrying a load. Operators need to travel gently and slowly every time they use an attachment and take extra care while turning. As noted above, each attachment should be listed on the data plate of the forklift's capacity. To maintain safety, special checks need to be completed before using any forklift attachment. The forklift attachment needs to be the right one for the type of forklift being used, appropriate for the load at hand, correctly attached, locked in place and permitted on the data plate of the forklift. List of

Common Forklift Attachments Below is a list of popular forklift attachments and their general uses. There are numerous forklift attachments and this list will cover the most popular. The variety of attachments can drastically increase efficiency for many jobs. SIDESHIFTER: The operator can manipulate the forks laterally with a sideshifter. This allows for easier load placement without having to move the entire forklift. FORK POSITIONERS: Moves the forks together or apart in relation to one another to adjust for various load types. DIMENSIONING DEVICES: Provide dimensions for the cargo allowing for more efficient use of warehouse and truck trailer space and often used in conjunction with billing systems based on volume. ROTATOR: Rotators help to right tilted skids and are useful for fast unloading and tackling custom load requirements. Numerous attachments have a rotator feature. ROLL AND BARREL CLAMP: The roll and barrel clamp allows the forklift to grasp rounded loads including barrels. It is outfitted with different pressure settings to facilitate fragile options and often has a rotate function to simplify horizontal and vertical positioning. CARTON AND MULTIPURPOSE CLAMP: Allows for grasping a load with a more squared shape, often with pressure settings. Products like cartons, boxes and bales can be moved with this type of attachment. POLE ATTACHMENTS: Pole attachments are long metal poles in place of the forks. They are useful for picking up linoleum and rolled up carpet or similar items. SLIP SHEETER OR PUSH-PULL: Allows operator to transport slip sheets by clamping onto slip sheets, as opposed to pallets, and either pulling the slip sheet onto wide and thin metal forks for loading or pushing the slip sheet to unload. Some variations of the attachment are Save, where the slip sheet is removed for reuse, or Standard. DRUM HANDLER: The drum handler is built for holding drums. It may have arms that encompass the drum for transporting or it may feature a spring-loaded jaw to grip the drum’s top lip. DRUM AND STORAGE BIN TIPPER: The drum and storage bin tipper is designed for easier transport of liquid items or loose materials into bigger containers. MAN BASKET: The man basket is a lift platform to allow workers to complete jobs with brackets and railings and safety harnesses. TELESCOPIC FORKS: Telescopic forks are used in warehouses that rely on stacking two pallets in the event one shelf is located behind another shelf with no aisle in between. SCALES: Scales are helpful for allowing operators to transport pallets while weighing them. This stops the need for interrupting work with regular travel to the scales. It can be used in legal-for-trade weights for operations that bill by how much items weigh. SINGLE-DOUBLE FORKS: Single-double forks facilitate movement of a single platform or pallet or two side-by-side pallets. This is useful for transporting specialty items with the right attachments employed. It can be used with normal lifting tasks and stops the need for owning two separate machines. This greatly reduces the cost of maintenance and operation that is used with multiple forklifts. SNOW PLOW: Originally designed for snow removal, snow plow attachments can be used to move other loose items. SKIPS: Skips enable quick and safe waste removal to a skip or waste compactor. They may feature a bottom-emptying design or be a roll-forward model. BOOMS AND JIBS: Booms and jibs allow forklifts extended reach. They are available to transport deep or highly stacked loads, suspended loads and more. These attachments can be low profile, precision lifting or reach over models to facilitate extended lengths.