

Pacific Maritime Association

Accident Prevention Department
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POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCK OPERATOR TRAINING

INFORMATION

The **final FED OSHA** Powered Industrial Truck Operator Training rules (first published as proposed rules on March 14, 1995) were published on **December 1st**. The new rules mandate training and evaluation of all Powered Industrial Truck operators. A powered industrial truck is defined as any conveyance that carry, push, pull, lift, stack or tier material. The rules apply to every type of powered industrial truck used for material or equipment handling within a marine terminal (including straddle carriers, hustlers, top loaders, and container reach stackers). It does not apply to cranes and over the road vehicles. Training requirements for other material handling equipment such as container gantry cranes and derricks will continue to be covered by 1917.27 and 1918.98.

A **training program** is required that bases the amount and type of training on: the operator's prior knowledge and skill; the types of powered industrial trucks that the operator will operate in the workplace; the hazards present in the workplace; and the operators demonstrated ability to operate a powered industrial truck safely.

Refresher training is required if the operator is involved in an accident; or a near miss incident; the operator has been observed operating the vehicle in an unsafe manner; the operator has been determined during an evaluation to need additional training; there are changes in the workplace that could effect safe operation of the vehicle; or the operator is assigned to operate a different type of vehicle.

Operator performance evaluations are required as part of the initial and refresher training, and at least **once every three years**.

Initial training and evaluations of employees hired before December 1, 1999 must be completed by December 1, 1999.

Training and evaluation of employees hired after December 1 1999 must be completed before the employee is assigned to operate a powered industrial truck.

"Training" must include both classroom and practical training. Operators must demonstrate operational proficiency while they operate the vehicle.

These Regulations are Federal Regulations. PMA will be working with the OSHA Plan states (California and Washington) as they interpret and adopt the CAL-OSHA and WISHA versions of the powered industrial truck operator training requirements. Fed OSHA has the provision to help Plan States with enforcement of these rules

PMA has been training employees on the various powered industrial trucks using the ANSI model which subsequently became the basis for the Federal Regulations. PMA is currently assessing the effort needed to complete the initial training on a variety of powered industrial trucks and the triennial evaluations.

ACTION

Employers should take note of the regulations and the background material contained in the preamble. Copies of the regulations are available through the area Training and Accident Prevention Offices. It is also on the GPO web at:

www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/index.html

(Select Federal Register; check 1998 and final rules; use "on" 12/01/98 date; for search terms use truck)