

Speed and forklift trucks

Excessive speed contributes to a significant number of forklift truck accidents, increases the likelihood of an accident and the severity of injuries.

The maximum speed of a forklift operating in your specific environment should be based on a thorough risk assessment, including but not limited to, traffic routes, driving surfaces, load types, segregation of pedestrians, lighting, weather conditions.

When driven at an excessive speed for the conditions, forklifts may become unstable, may lose a load, impact fixtures and fittings and worse a pedestrian. There are many examples of forklifts tipping over as a result of operating at excessive speed. An unladen forklift is less stable than a laden one.

Sites should have mandatory speed limits (these may vary depending on different parts of the site) and speed limits should be managed and enforced by managers and supervisors.

There are systems available that can physically control the speed of forklift trucks. Some systems will allow different maximum speeds to be established in different zones. Your forklift truck service provider, or supplier, should be able to help further with this.