

SINGAPORE STANDARD

Code of practice for the safe use of powered counterbalanced forklifts

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counterbalanced forklifts**

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PSA Institute
Singapore Contractors Association Limited
Singapore Institution of Safety Officers
Singapore Manufacturers' Federation

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Foreword

This Singapore Standard was prepared by the Working Group on Safe Use of Powered Counterbalanced Forklifts appointed by the Technical Committee on Safety and Health Involving the Use of Equipment which is under the purview of the General Engineering and Safety Standards Committee.

Forklifts play a very important part in our industries today as they could move heavy materials quickly and easily. Along with the drive to develop Singapore into a world-class logistics hub, more logistics centres have been set up and more forklifts will be used. When operated safely, they contribute to the productivity of the operation. When used incorrectly, they can cause property damage, serious injuries and even death.

Accidents can happen due to a number of reasons. Examples are when forklift operators drive at excessive speeds, do not look at where they are driving, do not stack loads correctly, exceed the rated capacity of the forklift or drive with loads raised. These accidents may be prevented with proper training.

When the Factories (Safety Training Courses) Order 2001 was implemented in June 2001, all forklift operators employed in factories are required to undergo mandatory training. Employers shall ensure that their forklift operators are adequately trained to operate the forklifts safely. This will protect both the forklift operators and pedestrians from serious injuries or even death as a result of an accident.

The purpose of this code is to provide important safety information for safety professionals, owners and operators of forklifts to reduce workplace accidents and injuries. It could also be used as a guide to design training courses for the forklift operators. This code is not meant to be used as a substitute for operator training in the operation of forklifts.

In the preparation of this code, reference was mainly made to ISO 3691: 1980 – “Powered industrial trucks – Safety code” and also to the following publications:

1. ISO 1074 : 1991 Counterbalanced fork-lift trucks – Stability tests
2. ISO 3287 : 1999 Powered industrial trucks – Symbols for operator controls and other displays
3. ISO 5053 : 1987 Powered industrial trucks – Terminology
4. ISO 5057 : 1993 Industrial trucks – Inspection and repair of forks in service on fork-lift trucks

Acknowledgement is made for the use of the above information from the above publications.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this Singapore Standard may be the subject of patent rights. Enterprise Singapore shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all of such patent rights.

NOTE

1. *Singapore Standards (SSs) and Technical References (TRs) are reviewed periodically to keep abreast of technical changes, technological developments and industry practices. The changes are documented through the issue of either amendments or revisions.*
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Code of practice for safe use of powered counterbalanced forklifts

1 Scope

This code specifies the safety requirements for the manufacture, application, operation and maintenance of powered counterbalanced forklifts. It lays down the responsibilities of the various parties involved.

This code is not applicable to industrial forklifts that do not apply lifting with forks and the use of counterweights for balance. For the purpose of this code, the term forklift refers to powered counterbalanced forklift.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| ISO 5053 : 1987 | Powered industrial trucks – Terminology |
| ISO 3287 : 1999 | Powered industrial trucks – Symbols for operator controls and other displays |
| ISO 5057 | Industrial trucks – Inspection and repair of forks in service on fork-lift trucks |