

Fork lift truck operators health assessments

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Rationale

Fork lift trucks are widely used throughout industry for moving materials and goods, but unfortunately they feature prominently in worksite accidents. Every year there are about 8,000 lift truck accidents resulting in injury; on average ten of them are fatal.

For these reasons, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) strongly recommend that fork lift truck drivers attend regular health assessments. It is generally accepted that for most work, a medical standard equivalent to that of the Group 1 entitlement will be appropriate (this is the general medical standards set by the DVLA for motor cars and motor cycles).

However, in some cases, a more stringent standard may be required. Such as, when employees are moving highly toxic or explosive materials, working in a particularly demanding environment, working at night or if large, heavy trucks are to be operated. In these instances some or all of the medical standards equivalent to that of Group 2 entitlement may be appropriate (these are standards set by the DVLA with regards to large vehicles and buses).

The HSE suggest the following frequency of health assessments:

- ▶ at pre employment
- ▶ at 3 yearly intervals after age 40
- ▶ at yearly intervals after age 65
- ▶ after any period of absence in excess of 3 weeks
- ▶ after physical injury or accident; or
- ▶ after any cardiac event.

Procedure

The assessment needs to take place in a private single room – preferably close to a toilet and hand washing facilities. It will take approx 30 mins to complete.

The following procedures include:

- ▶ The employee is asked to sign a health surveillance consent form to show that he/she understands the reason for the assessment and is happy to take part in it.
- ▶ A fork lift truck drivers' health questionnaire is completed by the employee.
- ▶ The OHA carries out a physical health assessment to include height, weight, BP, pulse, urinalysis and visual acuity. A clinical assessment of hearing will also be included. This can invoke either a conversational or speech test or if noise risk assessment indicated an audiogram.
- ▶ After completion, the results will be reviewed with reference to the employee's specific job requirements and the DVLA standards.
- ▶ The outcome will be fed back to the employer.
- ▶ All notes will be kept confidentially by the OHA in line with professional guidelines and the Data Protection Act.



'Health and Safety Executive strongly recommend that fork lift truck drivers attend for regular health assessments.'



About Us

We work with employers to provide support and practical guidance regarding effective management of sickness absence and other relevant employee health issues.

Our services aim to help you:

- ▶ avoid costly claims by ensuring you meet your legal and statutory responsibilities
 - ▶ comply with Health and Safety and Disability legislation
 - ▶ reduce the costs to your business of staff sickness absence
 - ▶ prevent and remove health risks arising in the workplace
- ▶ achieve maximum staff productivity by reducing absences due to ill-health
 - ▶ improve the overall health and wellbeing of your workforce
 - ▶ increase your staff retention and productivity
 - ▶ effectively manage employees who are off sick (especially long-term cases) and develop individual return-to-work strategies
 - ▶ introduce cost-effective and proactive health promotion campaigns
 - ▶ address complex stress and mental health cases.

'The OHA carries out a physical health assessment. The results will be reviewed with reference to the employee's specific job requirements and the DVLA standards.'

Contact detail

To discuss your specific requirements and obtain a quote please contact:



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