Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments Arizona - Without forklift attachments, many jobs would be difficult, if not impossible. The wide range of forklift attachments make most jobs not only possible but also safer and quicker. Forklift operators require training for each attachment they will be using as well as their general forklift training. There are many non-hydraulic attachments and hydraulic attachments available for forklift attachments. They provide many benefits including decreasing fuel consumption, time, man-power, damage to stock and employee accidents. Equipment Considerations A forklift attachment can replace an existing forklift attachment or can be added to a forklift that does not already 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. There are further safety issues to take into consideration which can be discussed in more detail below. Forklift Rating and Re-Rating Forklifts are given lift capacity ratings by the manufacturer which will need to be adjusted if adding or changing a forklift attachment. 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. The first step before installing any attachment is to get in touch with the authorized local forklift dealer to request that that forklift brand is re-rated accordingly with the attachment. There will be a new specification plate that is factory authorized once the forklift manufacturer has re-rated the machine. The upgraded specification plate replaces the original plate and needs to be installed with the new forklift rating showing. 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. While not all forklift attachments are hydraulic, hydraulic attachments often include more features than the forklift has valves. In these instances, one or more valves need to be added. There are numerous ways a valve can be added. Forklift manufacturers make accessories for valve and hose routing. Due to the cost of labor and parts required, this process may not be practical. Alternative methods include adding a solenoid valve in conjunction with a hose or cable reel that diverts oil flow from an existing function. 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. Kits are available that rely on a solenoid valve and certain hoses to transform the reinforced braid to additionally function 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 Proper training must be obtained prior to fitting any forklift attachment. Operators need to be competent with removing, operating and fitting the attachment before using it. There are 2 vital safety factors to think about before operating any type of forklift attachment. First, any attachment on a forklift will reduce its nominal load rating, as mentioned above. The nominal load rating is determined with forks and a stock fork carriage. It is important to note that the real load rating may be significantly lower. Second, the center of gravity will be affected by the use of any forklift attachment. The forklift's stability will be reduced and this needs to be computed for safety. 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. It is essential that operators travel slowly and make gentle turns when using any kind of forklift attachment. Check the forklift's capacity to ensure that every attachment is listed on the data plate. Certain safety checks need to be done before using any kind of attachment. The forklift attachment must be permitted on the forklift's data plate, locked properly, correctly attached, appropriate for the particular load and appropriate for the type of

forklift being used. List of Common Forklift Attachments A list of the most common attachments and their general uses are set out below. There are numerous forklift attachments and this list will cover the most popular. As you will see, the large variety of attachments available have the capacity to greatly increase the efficiency of many jobs. SIDESHIFTER: Allows the operator to move the forks laterally, allowing for easier placement of a load without the need to reposition the entire forklift. FORK POSITIONERS: Fork positioners allow the forks to travel apart or together with each other to adjust for different load sizes. 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: A rotator helps to straighten tilted skids and handle custom load requirements and fast unloading. Many attachments include 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: The carton and multipurpose clamp is for grasping loads with a squared shape. It also features pressure settings to handle bales, boxes and cartons. POLE ATTACHMENTS: Pole attachments are placed where the forks would normally be and are used for transporting carpet and rolled up linoleum. 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 specifically designed to transport drums. It might feature arms to hold the drum or be a spring-loaded model to grip the top lid. 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 lift platform known as a man basket is designed to transport workers vertically. It is outfitted with brackets and railings to anchor safety harnesses. TELESCOPIC FORKS: The telescopic forks are used in locations with a two pallet stacking design were one shelf is placed right behind another with no aisle between them. SCALES: Enables operators to simultaneously weigh and transport pallets, eliminating the need to interrupt transport to travel to scales, and can be obtained in legal-for-trade weights for operations that bill by weight. SINGLE-DOUBLE FORKS: Allow movement of a single pallet or platform or two pallets side by side. With the correct attachment/s a single forklift can be used for multiple specialist materials handling tasks alongside normal lifting tasks, thus reducing the need for owning a specialist unit alongside a normal unit and the larger running and maintenance costs associated with multiple units. SNOW PLOW: Designed for snow removal and distribution but can also be used to move other types of loose material. 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: Allow for extended reach of a forklift to transport suspended loads or loads that are stacked high or deep. They are available in different setups such as reach over and precision lifting or low profile fixed and extendable lengths.