Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments New York - Forklift attachments make a variety of jobs possible. There are numerous forklift attachments that make jobs faster and safer to complete. Forklift operators require training for each attachment they will be using as well as their general forklift training. Many hydraulic and non-hydraulic forklift attachments are available. They offer numerous benefits by decreasing man-power, employee accidents, fuel consumption, damage to stock and time. Equipment Considerations Forklift attachments can be switched out to replace existing attachments or may be used on machines that don't currently have one. Several equipment-related factors must be considered before any forklift attachment is replaced or added. These considerations include: 1. The forklift type; 2. The forklift's capacity; 3. The carriage type; and 4. The number of hydraulic functions. Failing to take these aforementioned factors into consideration can create extra safety hazards and risks for the operator, the forklift, its' attachments and the stock. Further safety factors must also be taken into consideration, which will be discussed in greater detail below. Forklift Rating and Re-Rating Manufacturers give forklifts a lift capacity rating that needs to be considered and adjusted when adding or changing forklift attachments. There are calculators available online from forklift attachment manufacturers to estimate each attachments particular lifting capacity. It is important to note that only the forklift manufacturer can provide accurate lifting capacities. Prior to installing any attachment, it is important to contact the local authorized dealer of the forklift brand being used and request that they re-rate the forklift in accordance with the attachment being considered for use. Once the forklift manufacturer has re-rated the machine, it will ideally have a new specification plate that is factory authorized. This new specification plate will replace the original plate and should be installed showing the new rating for the forklift. 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. Note that not every attachment is hydraulic; however, the hydraulic attachments provide more features compared to the number of valves the forklift offers. When this happens, the forklift needs to have one or more valves added. There are numerous ways a valve can be added. Forklift manufacturers make accessories for valve and hose routing. There are plenty of labor and parts involved which can be costly enough to make this an impractical solution. Other options include adding a cable reel and a hose in conjunction with a solenoid valve to divert oil from an existing location. Unfortunately, hose and cable reels can sometimes block the operator's view and can be easily damaged. Special hoses and a solenoid valve kit an be used to create an electrical conduit out of the reinforced braid. 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 Before using any type of forklift attachment, adequate training must be fulfilled. Operators need to be competent with removing, operating and fitting the attachment before using it. Two important safety factors must be considered before the use of any forklift attachment. The nominal load rating will be reduced on the forklift once any attachment is applied. Forks and a stock fork carriage compute the nominal load rating; although, the precise load rating may be much lower. Using any type of forklift attachment will affect the center of gravity on the machine. Obviously, the stability of the forklift is reduced. Because the weight of the attachment will be placed in front of the forklift's fulcrum point, it is necessary to drive the forklift as though it is partially loaded, even prior to picking up a load. It is essential that operators travel slowly and make gentle turns when using any kind of forklift attachment. As noted above, each attachment should be listed on the data plate of the forklift's capacity. 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 Discover a list of common forklift attachments and how they are utilized below. There are numerous forklift attachments and this list will cover

the most popular. The variety of attachments can drastically increase efficiency for 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: The fork positioners adjust for different loads by moving the forks together or apart in relation to each other. DIMENSIONING DEVICES: Dimensioning devices offer cargo dimensions to create more warehouse efficiency and better truck and trailer space. This is commonly used with billing systems that record volume. ROTATOR: Rotators help to right tilted skids and are useful for fast unloading and tackling custom load requirements. 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: Slip sheeter or push-pull attachment lets the operator move slip sheets with a clamping option instead of pallets. It can pull the slip sheet onto thin and wide metal forks to facilitate pushing or loading. The attachment variations include “Save,” where the slip sheet is removed to be used again or “Standard.” DRUM HANDLER: Allows for grasping drums, either with a spring-loaded jaw to grip the top lip of a drum, or with arms that encircle the drum, for transport. 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: Lift platform meant for lifting workers and complete with railings and brackets for safety harnesses. TELESCOPIC FORKS: Allows operation in a warehouse using two pallet stacking where one shelf is placed directly behind another with no aisle between the two. SCALES: Scales are helpful for allowing operators to transport pallets while weighing them. This stops the need for interrupting work with regular travel to the scales. It can be used in legal-for-trade weights for operations that bill by how much items weigh. 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: Allows safe and speedy removal of waste to the appropriate skip or waste compactor. Skips are available in a roll-forward type and a bottom-emptying type. BOOMS AND JIBS: Jibs and boom offer extended forklift reach for transporting loads that are stacked deep or high or that are suspended. There are reach-over, low profile, precision lifting and extendable length options.