

## **Op 5**

### **Work Platforms - "WP" Series**

#### **Specification:**

Designed to fit onto the forks of an industrial fork truck to give a stable and safe base from which to carry out occasional inspection, maintenance or stocktaking.

#### **Truck Specification:**

It is essential that the truck manufacturers information be consulted to confirm that the work platform is compatible with the truck on which is to be used under all operating conditions

If the truck is fitted with a tilting mechanism, devices should be fitted to ensure that the platform floor remains substantially horizontal during the time that the truck is used with the platform. Similarly if the truck is fitted with side shifts etc., devices should be fitted to ensure they remain in the mid-position. Suitable mechanical methods could be the fitting of a locking device to the cylinders or locking the controls so that they cannot be inadvertently operated.

#### **Operation:**

Check that the truck capacity is at least equal to the minimum required for each type of platform before fitting to the truck. Slide the forks into the fork pockets provided, until the platform rests up against the upright "shank" of the fork. Fasten the platform in place by placing the retaining pin through the bracket provided, behind the heel of the left fork. Ensure that the pin goes through the bracket fully.

#### **Operational Requirements:**

Warning cones, lights or signs must be placed around the truck working area where there is any possibility of other vehicles coming into close proximity or of objects falling from the platform. Where necessary other adjacent operations or activities may have to be suspended.

Special precautions may be necessary to ensure that personnel in the platform are not endangered by overhead hazards such as live electrical hazards, travelling cranes etc.

As far as reasonably practicable any work carried out from a platform should be within the area bounded by the guard rails and it is not advisable for persons to lean out.

Truck operators and persons working on platforms must be properly trained and given instructions on a safe system of working.

The truck operator must remain at the controls of the truck while the platform is in an elevated position.

It is essential that the truck should only be used on a well maintained and firm surface that facilitates lifting operations in a substantially vertical plane. Users must bear in mind that gradients can adversely affect the stability of the truck.

Communications between the truck driver and the person on the platform must be possible at all times. In noisy areas a device such as a whistle or klaxon may be necessary.

The truck must not be moved when personnel are on the work platform. When lifting personnel the handbrake must be applied.

See HSE Guidance Note PM28 for full details of the Safe Use of Working Platforms on Fork Lift trucks.

#### **Maintenance:**

Any moving parts such as gate hinges and gate locks (where a gate is fitted) should be lubricated regularly. The platform must always be examined thoroughly before using, for damage which will be detrimental to safe use; safety chains, mesh guards and gate locks must be intact and in correct working condition.

#### **Consult the truck manufacturer if in doubt.**

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