

# Hoists and Mobile Equipment

Farmers must ensure that hoists, lift trucks and powered mobile equipment are all handled, operated and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications. They must also ensure the equipment:

- Is operated by a competent person
- Has gears and moving parts properly guarded
- Has any load adequately secured
- Provides a safe means of entry and exit

Hoist	a device used for lifting or lowering material. <i>e.g. winch, chain fall or automotive lift.</i>
Lift truck	a high or low lift truck, which can be motorized or manually operated. <i>e.g. forklift</i>
Powered mobile equipment	self-propelled and designed to operate on land other than public highways, but does not include equipment primarily designed to transport persons or a lift truck. <i>e.g. tractor, loader or skidsteer.</i>

## Signaler

The farmer must ensure a designated signaler directs the safe movement of the equipment in the following situations. When the operator of the equipment:

- Does not have an adequate view of the load.
- Does not have a clear view of the route to be taken.
- Is not able to see around the equipment or has not ensured that no one will be exposed to a hazard from the movement of the equipment.
- Is not able to ensure the load does not come in contact with an electrical line.
- Is creating a hazard in the workplace by moving the equipment.

The signaler must:

- Be identifiable to the operator.
- Use well understood hand signals or another understood communication system.
- Warn the operator if the load may be in a hazardous position, in particular with respect to energized power lines.
- Ensure they can be seen at all times or have a second signaler.

## Safety Equipment and Precautions

Farmers must ensure that any lift truck or powered mobile equipment has the following safety equipment:

- An audible back-up alarm that operates automatically and is heard above the background noise of the farm, or another means of warning that provides an equivalent level of safety (e.g. beacon light).
- A manually operated horn (not necessary to install if not done at the time of manufacture).
- Adequate front and rear lights.
- Adequate braking system.
- Adequate protection from any hazards or flying objects during operation.

Do not alter any safety devices or controls.

Where an operator of powered mobile equipment is exposed to a hazard from falling objects, the farmer must ensure that the equipment has an adequate overhead protective structure meeting the standards. Only a competent person should make any modifications to this structure.

Any powered mobile equipment or lift truck manufactured after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1974 must be equipped with a rollover protective structure. Only competent individuals should make modifications to a rollover protective structure, ensuring it meets the standard.

Employers must also ensure that any equipment with a rollover protective structure is equipped with a seatbelt to be worn at all times.

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## Precautionary Arrangements

There should be NO riders on any lift truck or powered mobile equipment unless there is an installed training seat, which should be used for training and diagnostic testing only.

Farmers must ensure that any powered mobile equipment or lift truck with an internal combustion engine is equipped with a fire extinguisher.

There should be mirrors installed where there are blind spots that could result in a collision. If not possible, a written procedure should be developed to ensure safety.

An employer must ensure that the amount of dust in the air produced by the use of a hoist, lift truck or powered mobile equipment is minimized.

## Operating Precautions

The operator of powered mobile equipment or lift truck, where applicable, must:

- Not move equipment until all air and hydraulic pressure are fully built up.
- When leaving equipment unattended:
  - Park it on level ground, whenever possible.
  - Set the parking break.
  - Lower or block attachment (e.g. bucket, blade)
  - Disengage master clutch.
  - Shut off engine.
- Not carry hazardous products where the operator rides.
- Ensure there are no loose articles presenting hazards where operator rides.

Any piece of equipment that has wire, ropes, drums and sheaves must be visually inspected on a daily basis prior to operation, and visually and manually inspected by a competent person on a weekly basis.

At any time a person is working under the equipment that is raised off the ground, the equipment must be blocked.

Anyone performing work on articulating equipment must ensure the lock bars or blocking are in place to prevent movement.

## Lift Trucks

Any lift trucks (e.g. forklifts) used on the farm must be constructed, maintained, inspected and operated according to the applicable standard. It is the employer's responsibility to ensure they purchase an adequate lift truck.

The employer is also responsible for ensuring that all supervisors and operators have been provided with the necessary information, instruction, training, supervision, facilities and equipment required for the safe operation of the equipment.

When a lift truck run by an internal combustion engine is in an enclosed area, the employer must ensure there is adequate ventilation, monitoring and record-keeping practices to ensure exposure from exhaust gases does not exceed the occupational exposure limit for the gas.

Where a lift truck is operated in an aisle, the employer must ensure it meets the following requirements:

- **One-way aisle**  
width of the aisle = width of vehicle or load + 600 mm (23.6")
- **Two-way aisle**  
width of the aisle = width of the vehicle or load + 900 mm (35.4")

Any lift truck propelled by propane must have fuel components designed, inspected, operated and maintained according to standard CSA B149.2.

## Hoists

Any hoist used on the farm must be designed, maintained and inspected according to the applicable CSA or ANSI Standard.

All hoists must be inspected annually by a competent person. The inspection should include tests to confirm the rated load and a running, load, deflection and brake test, as applicable. If the hoist is designed to lift above 5 tonnes (11,000 lbs), a certificate from an engineer must be obtained every year.

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## Hoists (cont'd)

In addition to other inspections, the hoist must be visually inspected by a competent person, and include the inspection of safety devices and for defects affecting structural integrity:

- Before put in service or after 1 month of disuse.
- Once during every month of operation.
- After any accident or repair.

Where any defect is identified, the hoist must be taken out of service and repaired before use.

It is important that the hoist have a rated load statement and that it is never used to lift anything above its rated load. Operators must be trained to understand the load the hoist is capable of hoisting safely under normal operating conditions. Where there is any chance of the rated load changing due to damage or repairs, it must be re-tested. All operators must receive training if the rated load has changed.

Operators are responsible for:

- Visually inspecting the hoist daily before operating.
- Not carrying a load over any person, unless:  
It is not reasonably practicable to reroute the traffic of the people or the lifting route and a written work procedure is established providing adequate warning and information about the hazards.

Records must be maintained for each inspection and any repair affecting the structural integrity of **hoists** and **rigging hardware**. Records must include:

- Date and time
- Nature and result of inspection or repair
- Name of person performing inspection or repair

## Rigging Hardware

Rigging hardware refers to a chain, cable, webbing, bucket, grapple, hook, ring, sling or other device used to attach a load to a hoist.

All rigging hardware must be constructed, installed, operated and maintained in accordance to the standard and the manufacturer's specifications, where they exist.

The lifting capacity of rigging hardware must be on the device in a permanent and legible manner.

The operator must be trained to ensure they are knowledgeable about the lifting capacity.

The employer must designate a competent person to use the rigging hardware.

Before raising a load by hoist, the load must be properly secured to the hoist.

The rigging hardware should be inspected before each use to ensure no defect exists. It must also be inspected:

- Before being put into service or after one month or more of disuse.
- Once during every year in operation.

Where any defect is identified, the rigging hardware must be taken out of service and repaired prior to use.

## DISCLAIMER:

*This fact sheet is a general overview for information purposes only. Farmers must reference legislation to ensure compliance.*