

Komatsu

Forklift Basics

A forklift is a versatile equipment. It is a small vehicle that has attachments on the front which enable it to lift and move a variety of loads. Forklifts are common features in warehouses and factories. The driver of a forklift has to obtain special training, particularly since these machines function on rear-wheel drive and this can be very difficult to get used to until one is familiar with it. Because the forklift carries its load at the front, the center of gravity is continually shifting and this results in the machinery being frequently unstable.

Parts

The lift truck operator will sit inside the area referred to as the "cat." It's an area protected by metal bars which stretch overhead like a roof. On the front of the machine, the mast is situated. The mast is the mechanism that lowers and raises the load with the use of hydraulic cylinders.

Forklift Components

When looking for information on lift truck components and aftermarket lift truck parts, it is a good idea to check out the World Wide Web or your local phone directory. Many places provide various support products, forklift parts and lift truck accessories.

Structural Parts

The top portion of a lift truck is known as the overhead guard. The foot guard is the portion that separates the cabin from the load. A counterweight is located at the rear of the forklift and is installed there that allows you to keep the equipment from falling over.

The tines and Apron

Typically, the load apron is responsible for keeping the cargo positioned while the forks, or metal arms, cradle the load. The tines could be tilted in an effort to balance the cargo. This is accomplished using the hydraulic hoist arm and the tilting ram that powers the upward fork movement.

The Lift Structure

The guard of the load apron extends well over the apron. It works to keep the cargo stable when the forks carry it along the track of the arms of the upright.

Mechanics

The forklift's IC engine enables the power to be sent to the equipment wheels, providing the lift truck with movement. The wheels have brakes installed in order to enable the driver the chance to slow down or stop the machinery as needed.

Controls

The lift is operated utilizing hoist controls that look like a bunch of stick-shaped levers. The lift truck is driven by using the steering wheel to turn, like a car or truck.

Load Rating Plate

The specific safety rating plate is bolted inside of the cabin. This load rating plate details the weight restrictions for each particular forklift.