Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments New Hampshire - Forklift attachments make a variety of jobs possible. There are numerous forklift attachments that make jobs faster and safer to complete. Besides regular forklift training, operators also need to undergo proper training for every attachment they will be using. 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. However, only the forklift manufacturer can provide accurate lifting capacities. Before installing any kind of attachment, it is essential to contact the local authorized forklift dealer of the particular forklift brand to request that they rate the machine accordingly with the attachment being used. 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 It is vital to note when working with forklift attachments the equipment's hydraulic function consists of a forklift valve that has a lever located near the operator which creates two areas for pressurized hydraulic passages for oil. Note that not every attachment is hydraulic; however, the hydraulic attachments provide more features compared to the number of valves the forklift offers. In this circumstance, it is common to add one or more valves as needed. There are several methods of adding a valve. There are many ways to add a forklift valve.Equipment manufacturers make forklift accessories for hose routing and valve placement. 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. The main issue is that the cable reels and hose may block the view of the operator and these items can be damaged. Special hoses and a solenoid valve kit an be used to create an electrical conduit out of the reinforced braid. These hoses are designed to replace existing ones and stay free from being damaged. The operator can enjoy a clear view with this option. Safety Considerations Proper training must be obtained prior to fitting any forklift attachment. The operator needs to be able to remove, fit and operate the attachment. There are 2 vital safety factors to think about before operating any type of forklift attachment. The nominal load rating will be reduced on the forklift once any attachment is applied. 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. Secondly, the forklift's center of gravity will be affected when any forklift attachment is added. This will reduce the forklift's stability. Due to the attachment weight being situated in front of the fulcrum point, the forklift needs to be driven as though it is partially loaded even when it is empty. 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 many more attachments available

than are listed here but this will cover the most widely-used. The variety of attachments can drastically increase efficiency for many jobs. SIDESHIFTER: The sideshifter enables the forklift to move laterally for easier load placement without having to reposition the entire machine. FORK POSITIONERS: Moves the forks together or apart in relation to one another to adjust for various load types. 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. Numerous attachments have 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: Allows for grasping a load with a more squared shape, often with pressure settings. Products like cartons, boxes and bales can be moved with this type of attachment. POLE ATTACHMENTS: Pole attachments are long metal poles in place of the forks. They are useful for picking up linoleum and rolled up carpet or similar items. 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: 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 helps to transfer loose or liquid items into other containers. MAN BASKET: Lift platform meant for lifting workers and complete with railings and brackets for safety harnesses. TELESCOPIC FORKS: Telescopic forks are used in warehouses that rely on stacking two pallets in the event one shelf is located behind another shelf with no aisle in between. 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: The single-double forks can be used alongside regular lifting tasks. It allows a single pallet or platform to move or two pallets beside each other. Additional attachments can be used and this replaces the need for having a separate specialty unit; thus reducing maintenance and operating costs associated with more than one machine. 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.