

## Fork Extensions

Forklift extensions are a good option when you find you have to reach further than your standard lift truck allows. Furthermore, if you find that a load exceeds over what you could securely lift on your forklift, an extension could help you complete your task safely.

### Increasing Lift Truck Efficiency

Forklift extensions provide the added support and capacity required whenever lifting containers, long pallets or very heavy loads. In addition, the extensions add more length to the forks that enables the one operating it to reach increased distances. Utilizing lift truck extensions really saves a company the requirement to obtain individual machinery so as to finish the job. This can save potentially thousands of dollars while adding more efficiency and productivity alternatives making use of the machine you already have.

Several of the fork extensions would simply slip overtop of the lift truck forks. Extensions can be obtained so as to fit forks with widths from 4-6 inches. It is extremely important that you gauge the extensions to be certain of a correct fit. Knowing that extensions have an inner width that is half an inch wider as opposed to the size stated is paramount to ensuring the right fit. When buying your extension size, make certain it is equivalent to your fork's width. For example, if you have blades which are 6 inches wide, you would make use of an extension that is six inches wide.

### OSHA Standards

There is safety standards set by OSHA that standardize the length of extension which you can utilize. According to the guidelines, extensions can not be longer than 50 percent of the original fork length. Following these rules will help to maintain a safe operation. A yellow powder coat finish is added to the metal forklift extensions to avoid corrosion. The two most popular sizes for lift truck extensions in the industry are sixty inches and seventy two inches, even if, other lengths are existing.

### Securing Mechanism

There are two separate securing systems existing. The first alternative secures the extensions onto the lift truck with a single pull pin. The next and safer alternative is the safety loop which is welded on and offers a more stable attachment of the extension. The lift truck extensions are obtainable in both tapered or non-tapered for nearly all container and pallet loads. Triangular extensions are utilized whenever moving cylinder loads.

### Cylinder Loads

Loads that comprise coils, pipes or drums are considered to be cylinder loads. Extensions for cylinder loads are also made of steel. They are made to fit forks up to 2" thick and which are 4" to 5" in width. Attached in place with a locking bar, they slip on and off with no trouble. Triangular extensions differ in length from 54" to 60".

### Safety Measures

It is at all times a good idea to use safety precautions when dealing with any type of industrial equipment and lift truck extensions are no different. Checking your forklift extensions before use is also a great habit to get into. Once the extensions have been placed onto the lift truck, the securing mechanism must be double checked also. Physical injury or destruction to the load can take place if the extensions were to become unfastened and fall off. Adhering OSHA regulations will also help so as to ensure the safety of the operator as well as those working close by.