



An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

*Healthy,
safe and
productive lives
and enterprises*

Code of Practice: Safe Use of Industrial Trucks

**Information
webinar**

11 December 2025

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Benefits of this Code of Practice

Employer:

- Provides a framework for managing industrial trucks in the workplace
- Provides clarity about what is legally required
 - Employers
 - Supervisors & Managers of those who operate rider operated industrial trucks
 - Those in control of places of work where rider operated industrial trucks are operated
 - Organisations that hire or lease industrial trucks to others
 - Contractors who own, handle, maintain or manage the use of a rider-operated industrial lift truck in the workplace
 - Those preparing risk assessments or designing systems of work for use of industrial trucks
- Will assist with doing comprehensive risk assessment

Legal System

- Provides a judge with the expectations around management/use of industrial trucks - benchmark

The Consultation Process

- The period of public consultation lasted from 20 November 2023 until 08 January 2024
 - Separate consultation with H.S.A Board & Advisory Committees
 - We considered the submissions carefully and took on board many of the suggestions made
 - Amended the text to reflect many of them
 - Transition period for trainers to have Level 6 QQI qualification increased from a year to 18 months
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- **Persons under the age of 18 are not permitted to operate lifting equipment by Reg 51 GAR - implications for training of those under 18**

The new Code of Practice

- Applies to the use of **rider-operated** industrial trucks in all workplaces
- Provides a comprehensive **framework** for managing all aspects of industrial truck **operations** in a more holistic, safe, and sustainable way based on a **Safe Systems Approach**
- Places focus on the role of
 - Employers
 - Training providers
 - Supervisors
 - Operators
 - Those who work in/around industrial trucks and
 - Those preparing risk assessments or designing systems of work for use of industrial trucks

Training under the new Code of Practice

- *2001 Code of Practice Rider-operated lift trucks: operator training* has been in place for over 20
- Only applied to the
 - training of operators
 - for 2 types of forklifts - counterbalance and reach
- Industrial trucks have evolved
- Significant number of incidents with forklift trucks over the years
- Training landscape is inconsistent
 - Employers selecting shorter, cheaper courses because they are available (no justification)
 - Employers placing pressure on training providers to provide courses of short duration
 - High quality trainers complain of uneven playing field
- We want to raise standards around the use of industrial trucks – this includes the overall (minimum) standard of training provided
- Those who deliver training in industrial trucks must be qualified as professional trainers
- Those who organize training should take the time to select competent trainers who will provide training tailored to your needs
- Ultimately, we want to reduce the incidence of accidents involving industrial trucks

Aim of the revised Code of Practice

- To **raise standards** in all aspects of industrial truck use
 - Selection of operators
 - Training – 3 Stages
 - Operation
 - Supervision
 - Authorisation of operator in writing
 - Refresher/Conversion training
- There will be a greater focus on requirements for industrial trucks, as clarified by this COP
- Inspectors will be looking at training records in more depth during inspections

What Are We Asking You to Do?

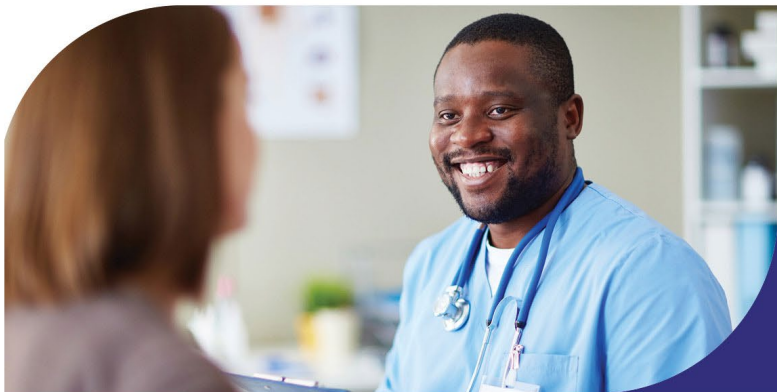
- Work with us to **raise standards** around use of industrial trucks
- Adopt **best practice**
- **Read** the Code of Practice
- Consider the **implications** for your business
- **Revise your risk assessment(s)** for industrial trucks
- Comply with the **minimum** training requirements set out in the Code of Practice
- Give careful consideration to the **competence of trainers** you employ and the duration/content of training (2.8.6)
- Provide **on the job training under supervision** (2.3.5)
- **Authorise** your operators in writing
- Ensure appropriate **supervision**



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Go raibh maith agaibh
Thank you



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