

POWER TRUCKS

forks is a considerable overload. Every operator should be familiar with the relative maximum load limits of the truck he operates and be required to observe them. Table 20-A gives typical specifications for a 2,000-pound truck.

Placing extra weight on the rear of a forklift truck to counterbalance an overload should not be permitted as it strains the tires, axles, and motor.

TABLE 20-A
TYPICAL LOAD LIMITS OF
2,000-POUND TRUCK

Length of Load (in)	Load Center (in)	Maximum Load (lb)
30	15	2,000
36	18	1,800
42	21	1,650
48	24	1,500

Side stability is a critical factor in making turns at speed or on a slope. Back tilt of uprights reduces side stability on high lifts, and allowance should be made for this factor.

Particular care should be taken not to exceed floor load limits. The force exerted by a truck on a floor varies with the speed, load, and total weight distribution. It is also affected by the number of wheels, wheelbase, and other variable factors.

Operators should never, under any circumstances, attempt to operate a forklift truck with an overload that raises enough weight from the rear wheels to tip the truck or make steering uncertain. Such a load is dangerous. Standing on a truck or adding counterweights to compensate for an overload should never be permitted.

When standard forks are used to pick up round objects, such as rolls and drums, care must be taken to see that the tips do not



Fig. 20-12 To pick up round object, forks should be tilted (left), not used flat (right)

damage the load or push it against workers. The uprights should first be tilted so that the tips of the forks touch the floor, and then moved forward so that the forks can slide under the object. Tilting the uprights backward will then cause the load to roll back against them in a secure carrying position (Fig 20-12).

To unload a large case or similar object without a pallet, the operator should first drive into position for stacking. He should then lower the load onto a base having a block near the edge, withdraw the forks so that only their tips hold up the end of the load, withdraw the block, tilt the uprights forward, and back away (Fig 20-13).

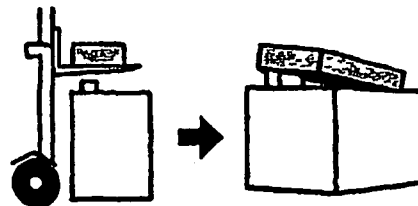


Fig 20-13 Unloading a large case or similar object without a pallet requires a base and a moveable block

To pick up a palletized load, the forks should be fully and squarely seated in the pallet, an equal distance from the center stringers and well out toward the sides. Forks to be inserted in a pallet should be level, not tilted forward or back. If the forks are placed close together, the pallet tends to drop at the sides and seesaw, causing strain and instability (Fig 20-14).

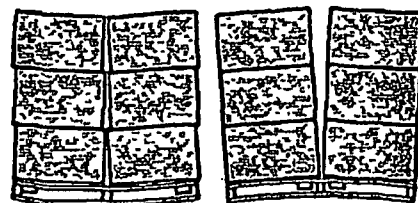


Fig. 20-14. With forks spread wide (left), load is well distributed and tends to bind itself together. Effect of placing forks too close is shown in right view.