the rated capacity for various truck models

Operators should never, under any circumstances, attempt to operate a truck with an overload that removes 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

Side stability is a critical factor in making turns at speed or on a slope or ramp 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 All questions about floor capacities should be referred to a qualified building architect or structural engineer

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 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 the vertical face of the forks and/or carriage and the load backrest extension—a secure carrying position (Fig 22-12)

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 22-13)

In attempting 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 22-14)

Elevating personnel with a lift truck is not recommended However, if it is to be done, use a safety platform that is securely attached to the load engaging means before using

To raise the load from the surface on which it is resting, the uprights are tilted backward The tilt lever may be allowed to return to neutral when the uprights are tilted back far enough for safe handling of the load The load is then raised with the lift mechanism Use extreme care when tilting a load forward or backward, particularly when high tiering Do not tilt forward with the load-engaging means elevated, except to pick up a load Do not tilt an elevated load forward, except when the load is in a deposit position over a rack or stack When stacking or tiering, use only enough backward tilt to stabilize the load

Excessive engine speed will not increase the speed of lifting, lowering, or tilting, and will result only in excessive wear A good operator will learn to judge by "feel" the correct speed

To lower a pallet, the down control should be applied until the pallet is on the floor, then the uprights should be tilted to vertical position so that the forks can be withdrawn When an operator sets a load down, he should lower the forks or platform far enough to disengage the bed of the skid or pallet, and then back the truck clear before he drives away

When a load to be stacked has been raised to the desired height, the hoist lever may be returned to neutral The truck is then moved forward to the base of the stack on which the load is to be placed It is best for the beginner to lift the load or release the load with the tilt mechanism, because the uprights are designed to raise the load slightly when tilted backward and lower it when tilted forward An experienced operator can speed up the operation by using only the hoist lever

When raising or lowering loads while standing still, the operator should not leave the truck in gear with the clutch depressed, he should return the shift to neutral and disengage the clutch

Operators of lift trucks should be told to refuse improperly loaded skids or pallets, or loads too heavy for the truck

The forks should be placed flat on the floor when a lift truck is parked No one should be allowed to stand or walk under elevated forks

Using a lift truck as an elevator for employees (for example, to service light fixtures) should be done only if a safe platform securely