

Powered Industrial Trucks

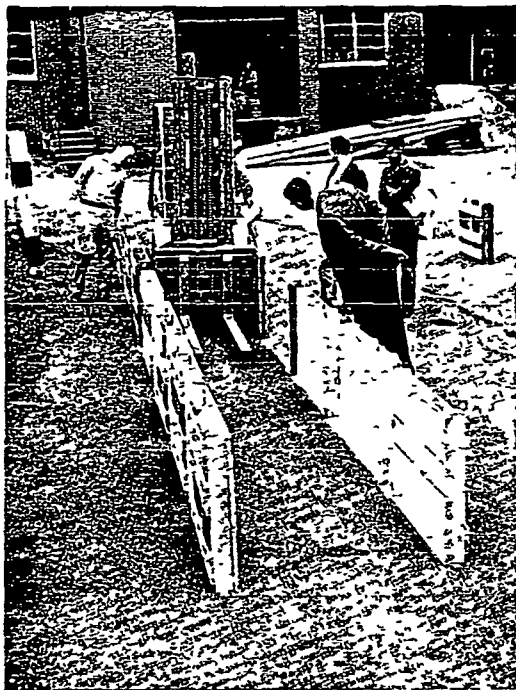


FIG 22-19 — Judges watch a driver maneuver his lift truck through a mockup of a crowded aisle. One-inch clearance on both sides of truck tests operator's judgment.

Courtesy Crouse-Hinds Co

for an operator's badge only after a specified period of driving on the job under close supervision, followed by an additional final examination. In any case, close supervision is essential, especially immediately following the training period when the newly qualified driver is applying his lessons on the job. In fact, as long as an operator remains on the job, his performance should be periodically checked to stop any tendency to lapse into unsafe practices.

There are a number of Safe Driver Award programs available. These programs have been very effective in achieving extended periods of safe and productive operation.

Inspection and Maintenance

Powered industrial trucks should be inspected on a regular schedule. Operators should make daily inspection of controls,

brakes, tires, and other moving parts. Checklists (Fig 22-21) should be used to record conditions requiring correction. In addition, competent maintenance men should be assigned to keep the equipment in safe operating condition. Defective brakes, controls, tires, lights, power supply, load-engaging mechanism, lift system, steering mechanism, and signal equipment should be repaired before trucks are allowed to go back into service. Operators should be prohibited from making repairs to trucks.

The operating mechanism should be locked "off" before repairs are made to any part of a powered industrial truck.

It is advisable to keep a detailed inspection and repair record for each truck. The maintenance force should give each truck a thorough inspection at stated intervals, and a complete overhaul after regular extended periods of operation.

Electric trucks

Handling and charging of storage batteries for electric trucks introduce several hazards. By wearing chemical goggles, rubber gloves, aprons, and rubber boots, operators of charging equipment can be protected against acid burns during refilling or handling operations. Wood slat mats, rubber mats, or clean floorboards will help prevent slips and falls and will protect against electric shock from the charging equipment. See NFPA Standard 505, *Powered Industrial Trucks*.

Battery charging installations should be in areas designated for that purpose. Provision should be made for flushing and neutralizing spillage for fire protection, and charging apparatus should be protected against bumping by trucks.

Battery changing and charging operations should be performed by trained and authorized personnel. Truck operators may or may not be so authorized depending upon individual plant setups.

If acid or electrolyte is spilled on the worker's skin or clothing, it should be washed off immediately with plenty of water.

Sulfuric acid used for refilling should not be allowed to run into ordinary cast iron, lead, steel, or brass drains.

To prevent operator strains from manual handling of heavy or awkward loads, a roller