

POWER TRUCKS

form of qualification tests, which require the trainee to demonstrate his skill in handling the truck, his judgment, and his knowledge of safety, basic materials-handling, and preventive maintenance. A certificate of graduation, which may be an official operator's permit, should be issued upon successful completion of the course.

Practical training and testing are conducted on obstacle courses consisting of pallets set on end in patterns designed to simulate boxcars, aisles, material piles, and other obstructions (Fig. 20-20). These obstacle courses and the maneuvers required to negotiate them have been largely standardized in operator training programs all over the country. In many training courses, the final qualifying examination consists of one or more test problems presented on the obstacle course. The instructor may be provided with a checklist and test sheet (Fig. 20-21) upon which he grades the prospective operator as he observes the performance. Many other points may be included in the checklist, such as failure to look behind when backing, failure to inspect the load before starting, failure to center the

forks properly under the load, and traveling with forks raised too high.

Although other training programs may vary in details from the example given, it demonstrates the essentials of good training procedures, which include

- 1 Physical qualification
- 2 Aptitude selection
- 3 Classroom instruction and testing
- 4 Field instruction and testing
- 5 Authorization only upon satisfactory completion of training.

In some training courses, the candidate is issued a student badge upon successful completion of the training course, and can qualify 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.

Fig. 20-21. Examiner's checklist and test sheet can be used to evaluate performance of forklift operators. Similar tests can be given operators of other types of trucks.

PERFORMANCE TEST FOR FORK LIFT OPERATOR EXAMINER'S TEST SHEET		NAME OF TEST _____ ERROR SCORE _____ FINAL RATING _____
NAME _____ DATE _____		
Operating Errors		
☐ 1. Started jerkily, overcautious, unfamiliar with controls. ☐ 2. Did not give proper signals when turning ☐ 3. Did not slow down at intersections. ☐ 4. Did not sound horn at intersections ☐ 5. Did not obey signs. ☐ 6. Did not look where he was going ☐ 7. Made too wide a turn on corners. ☐ 8. Cut corners too sharply ☐ 9. Drove recklessly ☐ 10. Approached load improperly ☐ 11. Lifted load improperly ☐ 12. Maneuvered unnecessarily ☐ 13. Traveled with load too high	☐ 14. Lowered load too fast ☐ 15. Stopped too suddenly ☐ 16. Load not balanced properly ☐ 17. Forks not under load all the way ☐ 18. Struck pallet or floor with fork while loading ☐ 19. Failed to check bridge plates ☐ 20. Did not place load within marked area ☐ 21. Did not drive backward when required ☐ 22. Number of pallets displaced (or lanes crossed) ☐ 23. Number of unnecessary stops made ☐ 24. Did not follow instructions. ☐ 25. Did not complete problem	

Courtesy Yale & Towne Inc