

Requirements for manager & supervisor training under L117

In March 2013 the HSE released the revised 'Approved Code of Practice L117 for Rider-operated lift trucks'. This document consolidates its predecessor and elements from HSG6 'Safety in working with lift trucks', and is the definitive guide to forklift training and safe use.

L117 includes a number of essential paragraphs that reinforce the importance of training for those managing and supervising forklift operations. There are two sections that employers must consider;

1. The Regulation (the law) - pg 9 section (2)

'Every employer shall ensure that any of his employees who supervises or manages the use of work equipment has received adequate training for purposes of health and safety, including training in the methods which may be adopted when using the work equipment, any risks which such use may entail and precautions to be taken'

2. Guidance - pg 17 section 84 & pg 18 section 85

'The HSW Act requires you to provide adequate supervision. It is essential that supervisors have enough training and knowledge to recognise safe and unsafe practices. This does not mean they need full operator training, but they do need to understand the risks involved, and how to avoid or prevent them. Some organisations offer training courses for supervisors and managers of lift-truck operations:

Supervisors should be able to:

- Carry out effective observation and know what to look for
- Communicate effectively with operators and line managers
- Recognise unsafe practice and behaviour
- Maintain and promote health and safety'

What does this mean for UK companies?

There has been a lot of discussion regarding the legal status of the L117, as this is a 'code of practice'.



Rider-operated lift trucks Operator training and safe use



Approved Code of Practice and guidance

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L117 Approved Code of Practice for Rider-operated Lift Trucks

To clarify, please refer to the 'Terms of reference' opposite.

To help you meet your requirements, please see below our interpretation of how you can implement this guidance on your site:

Ensure those who oversee your operations:

- are trained in the elements to look out for (risks/hazards)
- can recognise what safe and unsafe practice look like and understand what creates risk (NB: this is not covered by common sense or on-the-job training)
- are able to uphold H&S standards by communicating the risks/safe ways of working
- understand the H&S standards required by law, relating to the company, themselves and the operators, to be able to maintain and promote them throughout the workforce

How to meet your requirements

As per the guidance in L117, there is specialist training available for those who oversee the use of forklift trucks on your site.

Mentor's exclusive **Managing Forklift Operations** course provides managers and supervisors the skills, knowledge and confidence to recognise bad practice and stop it in its tracks. It outlines their personal responsibilities, as well as the associated benefits of safe operations, enabling your managers to better contribute to keeping your business safe, compliant and profitable.

For more information on specialist training courses for your managers and supervisors, call 01246 555222 and speak to an advisor today.

**To download your free copy of L117, visit:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l117.pdf>**

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TERMS OF REFERENCE:

Approved Code of Practice

... 'This code has a special legal status. If you are prosecuted for breach of health and safety law, and it is proved that you did not follow the relevant provisions of the Code, a court will find you at fault, unless you can show that you have complied with the law in some other way'

Guidance

... 'Following the guidance is not compulsory, unless specifically stated, and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this document'

