Logistics and equipment operation

Ride-on forklift trucks — R.489

Two to three days to drive a ride-on forklift truck safely and to let the employer issue the driving authorisation with full knowledge of the facts. Recommendation R.489 is the framework: regulations, categories, stability, load plate and start-of-shift checks, then driving on your own trucks, in your aisles, racking and loading docks. Each category ends with a theory test, a practical test and a named attestation.

Duration : 2–3 days

Objectives

1. Explain the responsibilities of the operator and the employer, and what a driving authorisation commits them to
2. Identify the R.489 category of every truck on site, from the ride-on pallet truck to the reach truck
3. Read a load plate and assess truck stability from the load mass, lift height and centre of gravity
4. Carry out start-of-shift checks and refuse to drive a defective machine
5. Drive, stack, unstack and load a lorry at the dock while following the site traffic plan

Programme

Day 1 — morning

• Typical forklift accidents: overturning, falling loads, pedestrian impact, falls from a dock

• Roles of the employer, supervisors and operator: medical fitness, training, driving authorisation

• R.489 categories 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and the machines they cover

• Exercise: match each truck in your fleet to its category

Day 1 — afternoon

• Technology: mast, carriage, forks, counterweight, hydraulic circuit, electric or combustion power

• Longitudinal and lateral stability, load centre of gravity, effect of lift height and mast tilt

• Reading the load plate and the effect of attachments

• Permissible load calculations from the plates of your own trucks

Day 2 — morning

• Start-of-shift checks: tyres, forks, chains, brakes, steering, horn, restraint system

• Energy: battery charging, changing a gas cylinder, rules of the charging room

• Traffic rules: speed, slopes, blind spots, junctions, pedestrians, site traffic plan

• Signage and instructions specific to your company

Day 2 — afternoon

• Familiarisation: driving position, seat belt or restraint system, starting, braking, stopping

• Driving unloaded and loaded, forwards and in reverse, on bends and ramps

• Picking up and setting down loads at floor level and at height, stacking and unstacking in racking

• Parking and end of shift: forks lowered, truck secured, key removed

Day 3 — morning

• Loading and unloading a lorry at the dock: wheel chocking, dock leveller, trailer lighting

• Long, bulky or unstable loads: when to adapt the manoeuvre and when to refuse it

• Driving the other categories requested by the employer

• Correcting the errors observed during the exercises

Day 3 — afternoon (workshop)

• Theory test: regulations, stability, checks, traffic

• Practical test by category on a course defined with site management

• Individual feedback on the assessment grids

• Handover of attestations and of the driving authorisation template to the employer

Teaching methods

• Driving on your own trucks, in your aisles, racking and loading docks, with your real loads
• Groups of 6 participants per machine, so that everyone drives enough
• Stability calculations based on the load plates of your fleet
• Delivered in French or Darija, with bilingual materials
• The theory and practical test grid is used throughout the exercises, not only on test day

Assessment and documents

A theory test and a practical test for each category, scored on a grid, and an end-of-course evaluation at D+1. Each participant receives a named attestation per category and a numbered training certificate that can be verified online. The company receives the training report, the test grids, a start-of-shift check sheet and a driving authorisation template; the authorisation itself is issued by the employer.

Bilingual materials for every participant; each classroom course comes with its digital twin on OmniLearn.

Good to know

Duration ranges from 2 to 3 days depending on the number of categories and the experience of the operators; the programme above describes the 3-day version. The attestation is valid for 5 years, after which the “Equipment operation refresher (all recommendations)” course brings skills up to date.

Practical information

Duration	2–3 days
Prerequisites	Medical fitness to drive, obtained beforehand
Group size	Groups of 6 to 12 participants, in-company
Format	In-company, face to face on your site
Language	French, Darija or English; bilingual materials
Funding	OFPPT special training contracts (TFP), GIAC, Maroc PME: we prepare the applications with you, at no extra cost.
Programme customisation	Programme adapted to your procedures, your equipment and your audience

Frequently asked questions

Who issues the driving authorisation?
The employer. It relies on the employee's medical fitness, on the named attestation obtained after the tests, and on knowledge of the premises and site rules. We give the employer a template to complete and sign.

Which categories should we plan for?
Those of the trucks the operator will actually drive. Before the session we take stock of your fleet with you: an order picker on a ride-on pallet truck does not need the same category as an operator of a reach truck.

Does an experienced operator have to attend all three days?
Not necessarily. For operators already working on one or two categories, the 2-day version concentrates time on the weak points identified at the start of the session and on the tests.

What do you need on site?
Working trucks for each category, a marked exercise area, pallets and a racking position, and if possible a dock with a lorry. We prepare the test course with your logistics manager.