

VEHICLE LOADING OPERATIONS

Hazards

- Slipping or tripping on wet, oily, or broken floor surfaces.
- Falling off liftgates, dock edges, unsecured dock plates or inappropriate dock plates.
- Injuries due to pinch and shear points on liftgates, shifting loads, sharp objects, or resulting from unchocked trailer wheels.
- Illness resulting from carbon monoxide generated by trucks other equipment.
- Back injuries from improper lifting and carrying.
- Injuries resulting from lack of maintenance, inspection or training.

Safety Guidelines

- Inspect equipment prior to work and address safety concerns.
- Ensure emergency equipment is not blocked or damaged.
- Keep floors clean, dry and in good condition.
- Ensure lighting is adequate.
- Note low clearance areas.
- Work cautiously to avoid falls. Don't run and avoid horseplay. Don't jump onto or off loading docks. Wear sturdy shoes with nonskid soles.
- Use safe material handling methods. Inspect loads before attempting to move them. Utilize lifting aids when possible. Ensure loads do not obstruct your view.
- Consider "safety utility knives" with self-retracting blades.
- Be alert to other vehicles, workers and materials. Avoid distractions such as loud music.
- Utilize high visibility clothing. Class 2 or Type R are preferred.
- Require all personnel to use wheel chocks or trailer restraints at every bay.
- Always inspect the floors of trailers and trucks before a PIT is driven onto them.
- Ensure dockboards have side curbs for run-off protection, an anchor method to prevent movement out of a safe position and handholds or other means to permit safe handling.
- Never leave a liftgate unattended and in an extended and raised positions.
- Utilize safety cones to mark the corners of liftgates.
- Ensure loads on liftgates are secured. Utilize straps when needed.
- Never attempt to save a falling load.
- Be aware of potential shifted loads when opening vehicle cargo area doors.
- Maintain three points of contact when entering and exiting vehicles.

More Information

Dockboard Safety: <https://ehs.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/dockboard-safety.pdf>

Powered Industrial Trucks-Are Your Operators Trained?:

<https://ehs.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/powered-industrial-trucks-operators-trained.pdf>

Manual Material Handling Safety and Ergonomics Training:

https://bmsweb.med.yale.edu/tms/tms_enrollments.offerings?p_crs_id=311