Forklift Attachment

Forklift Attachments Seattle - Forklift attachments make a variety of jobs possible. The wide range of forklift attachments make most jobs not only possible but also safer and quicker. In addition to general forklift training, operators must be properly training for each attachment they intent to use. There are many non-hydraulic attachments and hydraulic attachments available for forklift attachments. They provide many benefits including decreasing fuel consumption, time, man-power, damage to stock and employee accidents. Equipment Considerations Forklift attachments can be switched out to replace existing attachments or may be used on machines that don't currently have one. Various considerations need to be taken prior to adding or replacing any forklift attachment. These considerations include the kind of forklift, the machine's capacity, the number of hydraulic functions required to power the attachment's and the type of carriage. Failing to take these aforementioned factors into consideration can create extra safety hazards and risks for the operator, the forklift, its' attachments and the stock. There are further safety issues to take into consideration which can be discussed in more detail below. Forklift Rating and Re-Rating Forklifts are given lift capacity ratings by the manufacturer which will need to be adjusted if adding or changing a forklift attachment. There are calculators available online from forklift attachment manufacturers to estimate each attachments particular lifting capacity. However, only the forklift manufacturer can provide accurate lifting capacities. Before installing any kind of attachment, it is essential to contact the local authorized forklift dealer of the particular forklift brand to request that they rate the machine accordingly with the attachment being used. After the manufacturer of the forklift has re-rated the forklift, it should have a new factory authorized specification plate. This new specification plate will replace the original plate and should be installed showing the new rating for the forklift. Equipment Upgrades Forklift attachments rely on the machine's hydraulic function and are made up of a forklift valve that has a lever situated close to the operator. This creates two passages of pressurized hydraulic oil for powering the attachment features. While not all forklift attachments are hydraulic, hydraulic attachments often include more features than the forklift has valves. In these instances, one or more valves need to be added. There are several methods of adding a valve. Forklift manufacturers make accessories for valve and hose routing. There are plenty of labor and parts involved which can be costly enough to make this an impractical solution. Other options include adding a cable reel and a hose in conjunction with a solenoid valve to divert oil from an existing location. However, the operators' view may be compromised due to the cable reels and hose installation. These parts also may be easily damaged by their location. There are kits available that use a solenoid valve and specialty hoses that allow for the reinforced braid to double as an electrical conduit. Because these hoses replace the existing hoses housed in the forklift, the hoses are safe from damage while keeping the operator's field of vision clear. Safety Considerations Proper training must be obtained prior to fitting any forklift attachment. An operator must be competent in the fitting, operating and removal of the attachment. Two important safety factors must be considered before the use of any forklift attachment. Firstly, it is important to note that any kind of forklift attachment will reduce the machine's nominal load rating. Forks and a stock fork carriage compute the nominal load rating; although, the precise load rating may be much lower. Using any type of forklift attachment will affect the center of gravity on the machine. The forklift's stability will be reduced and this needs to be computed for safety. Due to the attachment weight being situated in front of the fulcrum point, the forklift needs to be driven as though it is partially loaded even when it is empty. Operators need to travel gently and slowly every time they use an attachment and take extra care while turning. Every attachment should be listed on the forklift capacity data plate. Certain safety checks need to be done before using any kind of attachment. The forklift attachment must be permitted on the forklift's data plate, locked properly, correctly attached, appropriate for the particular load and appropriate for the type of forklift being used. List of Common Forklift Attachments A list of the most common attachments and their general uses are set out below. There

are numerous forklift attachments and this list will cover the most popular. As you will see, the large variety of attachments available have the capacity to greatly increase the efficiency of many jobs. SIDESHIFTER: The sideshifter enables the forklift to move laterally for easier load placement without having to reposition the entire machine. FORK POSITIONERS: Fork positioners allow the forks to travel apart or together with each other to adjust for different load sizes. DIMENSIONING DEVICES: Dimensioning devices feature cargo dimensions useful for creating better efficiency in trucks, trailers and warehouses. This technology is often used alongside billing systems that monitor volume. ROTATOR: Assists in righting skids that have tilted, handling custom load requirements and quick unloading. Many attachments include a rotator feature. ROLL AND BARREL CLAMP: The roll and barrel clamp allows the forklift to grasp rounded loads including barrels. It is outfitted with different pressure settings to facilitate fragile options and often has a rotate function to simplify horizontal and vertical positioning. CARTON AND MULTIPURPOSE CLAMP: The carton and multipurpose clamp is for grasping loads with a squared shape. It also features pressure settings to handle bales, boxes and cartons. POLE ATTACHMENTS: Pole attachments are placed where the forks would normally be and are used for transporting carpet and rolled up linoleum. SLIP SHEETER OR PUSH-PULL: Slip sheeter or push-pull attachment lets the operator move slip sheets with a clamping option instead of pallets. It can pull the slip sheet onto thin and wide metal forks to facilitate pushing or loading. The attachment variations include “Save,” where the slip sheet is removed to be used again or “Standard.” DRUM HANDLER: The drum handler is specifically designed to transport drums. It might feature arms to hold the drum or be a spring-loaded model to grip the top lid. DRUM AND STORAGE BIN TIPPER: The drum and storage bin tipper is designed for easier transport of liquid items or loose materials into bigger containers. MAN BASKET: Lift platform meant for lifting workers and complete with railings and brackets for safety harnesses. TELESCOPIC FORKS: Allows operation in a warehouse using two pallet stacking where one shelf is placed directly behind another with no aisle between the two. SCALES: Scales allow forklift operators to weigh their pallets during transport. This increases efficiency by providing simultaneous data and not making the operator travel back and forth to scales. This attachment can be used for operators who bill by weight in legal-for-trade applications. SINGLE-DOUBLE FORKS: The single-double forks can be used alongside regular lifting tasks. It allows a single pallet or platform to move or two pallets beside each other. Additional attachments can be used and this replaces the need for having a separate specialty unit; thus reducing maintenance and operating costs associated with more than one machine. SNOW PLOW: Originally designed for snow removal, snow plow attachments can be used to move other loose items. SKIPS: Skips enable quick and safe waste removal to a skip or waste compactor. They may feature a bottom-emptying design or be a roll-forward model. BOOMS AND JIBS: Booms and jibs allow forklifts extended reach. They are available to transport deep or highly stacked loads, suspended loads and more. These attachments can be low profile, precision lifting or reach over models to facilitate extended lengths.