

TOOL BOX TALKS

Dock Crossover Safety

Dock crossovers, also called dock plates and dock levelers, are bridges that are placed between rail cars or transport trailers and warehouse loading docks. These bridges allow forklifts to be driven directly into the trailer or rail car. Dock plates must be used safely, as a serious forklift accident could result from improper use of these devices. Accidents that could happen include dock plate overloading, dock plate falling, forklift tip-over or transport truck pulling away.

WORKSAFE TIPS

DOCK CROSSOVER SAFETY

- Maintain dock crossovers per manufacturer's requirements. Inspect dock plates for safety and proper function regularly.
- Spring-loaded dock crossovers must be adjusted on a regular basis to ensure proper function.
- In recessed dock crossovers, keep trash and debris cleared from beneath the dock plate area.
- Dock plates that are not built in must be secured to prevent walking caused by forklift activity.
- Do not overload the dock plate. Post the dock plate capacity for forklift operators to see. Remember that dock plates must be able to handle the weight of the forklift plus the load capacity of the forklift.
- Slow down when crossing dock plates.
- If a dock plate panel is bent or if an edge is curled up, get it repaired as these bends weaken the plate.
- If raining or snowing, remove ice and snow & keep the dock plate surface dry. Dock plates can be slippery.
- Manual dock plates should be moved with a forklift or other material handling devices to avoid pinched or cut fingers and injured backs. Portable dock plates that are moved by hand must have handholds.
- Block or chock trailer / truck wheels to prevent movement of the trailer. Heavy forklifts have the capability to move trailers during loading and unloading. Wheel chocks help keep the trailer snug against the loading dock. When a trailer moves forward, a gap opens up between the dock and trailer, and forklifts can be backed into this gap and fall.
- Dock levelers must be fully bridged across the trailer. Any gaps along the leveler "tongue" and the trailer could cause the leveler to twist downward and collapse.
- Always look to the rear when backing forklifts.
- Bystanders must not be allowed in trailers during unloading.

CHOCK TRUCK TIRES & REQUEST THAT DRIVER SHUT DOWN ENGINE TO PREVENT THE TRUCK FROM PULLING AWAY.



FORKLIFTS CAN FALL OFF OF LOADING DOCKS KILLING THE OPERATOR.



DOCK PLATES DO NOT HAVE GUARDRAILS EMPLOYEES CAN FALL



WorkSAFE

Smart, Accident-Free Environments



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