Glossary of common Forklift terms

B

Battery Capacity = Battery Capacity is measured with its ability to maintain power over a period of time with a specified consumption of energy, presented in Ampere hours (Ah). Common forklift voltages are 12, 24, 36, 48, 72 DC.

Battery Compartment = the manufacturer's allotted space of a lift truck, provided to house a battery. A battery compartment is expressed as: L x W x H. (Length x Width x Height)

(BDI) Battery Discharge Indicator = A meter or gauge utilized on forklift that indicates the state-of charge in the battery.

Battery Model Identification = Example: 18-85-25)

Battery Weight, min. = Minimum weight of a battery that can be used with a particular as recommended by the manufacturer.

Boom = A powered boom that extends as a telescope from within itself.

Brakes, Service = Most powered through hydraulics, air or electric that activates the primary brake.

C

Capacity = the rating given a lift truck indicating the amount of weight that a truck will lift to a predetermined fork height at a specified load center. Most common is 24” load center.

Casters = Non-powered swiveled base caster/wheel(s) turn freely.

Control Valves = A valve that controls the direction of flow of hydraulic fluid. Typical configuration would be 2, 3, 4 valve

Counterbalanced = A lift truck that utilizes weight in its chassis to counterbalance a load against the center line of the drive wheels.

D

Data Tag or Spec plate = Typical a metal tag that is stamped by the manufacture showing MODEL and SERIAL number and pertinent data to further identify the unit.

Discharge Meter = A meter that indicates the state-of-charge in a lift truck's battery.

Duplex Mast = Same as Two-Stage Mast Full Free Lift Mast.

E

Engine Manufacturer = References the OEM that manufactures the engine for a given model.

F

Fork Carriage Width = the maximum width of the fork carriage. The carriage is designed to raise and lower in front of the mast; the forks connect to the carriage.

Fork Size = Dimensions of lift truck forks, expressed as: thickness x width x length. Example 1.5 x 4 x 48 in.

Fork Spread = the maximum distance the forks can be positioned, expressed as width, measured from the outside edge of the forks.

Free Lift = the vertical distance the forks can be raised before a mast begins to telescope.

Freezer Protection = A means of preparing a lift truck to operate in freezer or cold environments. = conditioning may include specialized hydraulic oils, special paint and components.

Fuel Tank Capacity = the maximum capacity of the fuel tank of a lift truck.

Full Free Lift = A truck where the fork carriage travels to the top of the inner mast before the inner mast begins to rise.

G

Grade ability = the maximum percent of a slope a lift truck can negotiate with a capacity load.

H

Hours per Year = the range of objective hours a user expects to operate a machine on a yearly basis; used as an RV Calculation factor.

Hydraulic Pressure = Indicates the standard pressure of hydraulic fluid for a particular lift truck model, measured by pounds per square inch.

L

Length to Fork Face = the length of the lift truck measured from the extreme rear end of the lift truck to the vertical surface of the fork face.

Lift Speed, empty = the maximum upward speed forks can travel without a load.

Lift Speed w/load = the maximum upward speed forks can travel with a maximum capacity load.

Lift Interrupt = Measures the state-of-charge of the battery and when the charge falls below a predetermined level, the lift interrupt locks out the lift contacts to prevent lift.

Limited Free Lift = the amount the forks raise before the overall lowered height of a mast increases.

Load Backrest = Connected to the fork carriage, the load backrest extends vertically; the load backrest is a grated shield, which prevents loads from sliding backwards.

Load Capacity = the maximum weight a specified lift truck can lift and/or carry, specified by the OEM.

Load Center = the horizontal distance between the front face and the longitudinal midpoint of an evenly distributed load.

Load Wheels = the wheels located on the load end of a truck.

Lower Speed, empty = the maximum downward speed forks can travel without a load.

Lower Speed w/load = the maximum downward speed forks can travel with a maximum capacity load.

M

Mast, Standard = (Standard Mast) the standard mast designated by the OEM

Mast - Two-Stage = a telescoping mast that is comprised of two connecting masts: Limited Free Lift (FL) & Full Free Lift (FFL).

Mast Triple Stage = A telescoping mast, which is comprised of three, connecting masts, same as Three Stage Mast.

Mast Quad Stage = A telescoping mast, which is comprised of four, connecting masts.

MFH = Maximum Fork Height. The maximum height of lift truck forks when the mast of the lift truck has reached full extension.

N

Narrow-Aisle Truck = A lift truck, which is designed specifically for narrow aisles. A narrow aisle is generally considered 7 to 9 feet wide.

O

Operating Weight = the weight of a standard configured machine, which is assembled and in working order. Please see our specification sheets to see the operating weight.

Order/Stock Picker = A forklift with all controls for raise/lower, travel mounted on an operator's platform that raises and lowers with the forks.

Outriggers I.D. = Straight mast forklift - the distance between the inside portion of the outriggers often call Base Leg Opening (BLO)

Outriggers O.D., max = the distance measured at the outside surface of outriggers

Overall Height Lowered = the height of a mast completely collapsed.

Overall Height Raised = the maximum extended height of the top of the load backrest or fork carriage of a completely extended mast.

Overall Width = distance between the widest part of a lift truck. In the Guru, when referring to overall width for class 2 & 3 trucks, overall width refers to the width of the power unit, not the outriggers.

Overhead Guard = A framework above the operator's head attached to a lift truck to protect an operator. Often referred to as “DOG” or Driver’s Over Head Guard.

Overall Guard Height = the distance from the floor surface to highest point of the overhead guard.

P

Power Type = Refers to the mode of energy or motive force by which a lift truck is propelled, examples include: gasoline/LPG/diesel engine, electric.

Pneumatic Tire = an inflatable tire generally used in an outdoors environment.

Q

Quad-Stage Mast = A lift truck mast that has four sections

R

Reach Truck = A truck equipped with a pantograph-type reach mechanism that allows the forks to extend out past the supporting outriggers.

Reach Extension = the maximum distance a fork carriage can be extended forward, horizontally. This function is limited to some (Class 2 & 3) “Reach Trucks”.

Rider Truck = A lift truck designed to be operated by an operator whom stands or sits on the unit.

Right Angle Stack = the ability to turn a lift truck 90 degrees in an aisle.

S

Serial Number -= The primary identifier that like as car/truck VIN assigned but the manufacturer on the data tag/often stamped in the frame of the chassis.

Service Weight = the overall weight of a fully configured lift truck

Side shift = an attachment which can move the forks horizontally to the left or right.

Stand-Up Rider = A lift truck designed to be controlled by an operator standing.

Straddle Stacker = A forklift lift that has outriggers that goes on either side of a load.

T

Tilt Angle = the distance a mast can move (tilt) forward and backward by means of hydraulics expressed tilt angle values as “back/front”.

Tires front = Refers to the tires, generally the “drive” tires.

Tires rear = Refers to the rear or "steer" tires,

Transmission Type = Assembly of gears and associated parts by which is powered from the engine.

Travel Speed, empty = the maximum speed a lift truck can travel without a load.

Travel Speed w/load = the maximum speed a lift truck can travel carrying a full load, or rated capacity.

Turning Radius = the radius of a circle created by outmost projection of a lift truck when the operator has the steering mechanism in the tightest turning position.

U

Under clearance, frame = Smallest distance between the wheelbase portion of a lift truck frame and a floor surface.

Under clearance, min. = Smallest distance between a lift truck and a floor surface.

V

Voltage = the measurement of the force which causes electrical current to flow in a conductor, expressed in volts, examples: 24, 36, 48, 72 & 80 volts.

W

Wheelbase = the distance between the front axle and the rear axle of a lift truck.

Wheels = the numbers of wheels on a standard lift truck

Walkie = A motorized pallet lift truck with limited lift, which an operator walks with controlling direction and speed by a control handle.

Walkie Ride = A motorized pallet lift truck with limited lift, which an operator walks rides with controlling direction and speed by a control handle.