

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0025
Subject:	Tipped forklift during operation
Date :	March 2007

Incident:

- Operator loaded 3 packs of roofing product with a combined weight of 2210kg onto forklift, reversed and elevated the load to approx. 2.5 metres.
- Forklift then moved forward to place packs on racking. As it approached racking the operator tilted the mast forward just past vertical without lowering the load.
- As the load was tilted forward it transferred the centre of gravity of the forklift forward and the forklift started to tip.
- The operator applied the brakes which exacerbated the situation and the forklift continued to tip forward past the point of balance.



Key Lessons:

- Forklift operator licensed but not familiar with data plate capacity on the forklift which showed a max. lift of 1820kg @ 4.5m mast vertical. He relied on the placard on the side of the forklift showing 2500kg as the capacity of the machine.
- The packs had been placed in a doorway and, frustrated by the need to move them, the forklift operator had not adhered to safe operating procedure.

Recommendations:

- New employee induction should include skill assessment, under controlled conditions, prior to being authorised to use equipment.
- Individual facilities hold their own awareness sessions / toolbox meetings to explain the capacity information on data plates.
- All forklift operators to be made aware of correct operating procedures for forklifts including load assessment, forklift capacity, carrying load as low as practicable and not travelling while adjusting load position.

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