

Chapter 31

Powered Industrial Trucks including Tractors

A. References

- a. [WAC 296-863](#) Powered Industrial Trucks
- b. [SPPM 3.64 forklift Safety](#)
- c. WAC 296-307-080, Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) for tractors
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=296-307-080>
- d. WAC, 296-307-076, Guarding Field Equipment
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=296-307>

B. Appendices

- a. Appendix A – Potential Fall Hazard Assessment
- b. Appendix B – Fall Protection Plan Form

C. Scope

This chapter establishes Powered Industrial Truck (PIT's) safety requirements for the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resources (CAHNRS) employees referencing the following: [WAC 296-307-080, Rollover protective structures for tractors](#) and [WAC 296-307-076, Guarding farm field equipment](#).

D. Responsibilities:

Supervisors:

- Designate and authorize employees to operate PIT's.
- Ensure that employees are trained in accordance with WAC 296-863 training requirements for Powered Industrial Trucks (including tractors)
- Ensure personnel operate tractors with ROPS except where excluded by [296-307-08003](#) and [WAC 296-307-08015](#) e.g. low profile tractors used in orchards and hop yards.
- Ensure personnel operating tractors equipped with ROPS wear a seat belt confining the employee to the ROPS protected area.
- Ensure employees operating PIT's receive training (see E. Training).
- Enforce this policy and ensure employees operate all PIT's including forklifts and tractors safely.
- Ensure Tractor power take offs (PTOs) have a master shield and PTO driven equipment is guarded with signage requiring that safety shields remain in place except for equipment attachment and maintenance (see also Lock-Out Tag-Out).

Employees:

- Participate in tractor safety training
- Only operate equipment that they have been designated, authorized, and have completed training to use
- Use ROPS according to manufacturer's specifications.
- Wear a seatbelt when operating PIT's including tractors with ROPS.

- Inform their supervisors when they identify PTOs or equipment without guarding or signage.
- Operate equipment in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.
- Don't access PTOs for maintenance or equipment attachment without controlling power to the PTO e.g. keys in their possession (see also Lock-Out Tag-Out).

E. Training

Employees operating PIT's such as forklifts will be evaluated every 3 years. Employees operating tractors will receive the following training annually:

Fall protection training will include the following:

1. Securely fasten the seat belt if the tractor has a ROPS.
2. Where possible, avoid operating the tractor near ditches, embankments and holes.
3. Reduce speed when turning, crossing slopes and on rough, slick or muddy surfaces.
4. Stay off slopes too steep for safe operation.
5. Watch where going, especially at row ends, on roads and around trees.
6. Passengers, other than persons required for instruction or machine operation, must not be permitted to ride on equipment unless a passenger seat or other protective device is provided.
7. Operate the tractor smoothly—no jerky turns, starts, or stops.
8. Hitch only to the drawbar and hitch points recommended by tractor manufacturers.
9. When tractor is stopped, set brakes securely and use park lock if available.
10. Tractor specific training, e.g. controls, operators manual.
11. Site-specific training such as topography and features that might contribute to rollover e.g. ditches, wet/muddy areas, steep inclines.
12. Safe operating practices to avoid rollover.

Re-training will be required when:

- The operator has been involved in an accident or a near miss
- The operator was observed operating the equipment in an unsafe manner
- There have been changes in the workplace, such as new or modified equipment, or site features which render previous training obsolete
- When regulatory requirements (DOSH) change

F. Requirements

General

All elevated workplaces of 4 feet or more, except loading docks, will be inspected and assessed for fall hazards and guarded with fall protection and inspected for hazards from falling objects. All workplaces having a fall hazard of 10 feet or more will have a written, site-specific, fall protection plan prepared, communicated to assigned employees and posted at the job site before employees begin work.

Fall Protection Work Plan

The job-specific fall protection plan shall be documented using the standard Fall Protection Plan form, provided in Appendix B. Fall protection plan documents are stored on the EHS shared drive by task or project, building and location. These plans may be modified for similar future work at the same location. The fall protection plan document shall be retained on the job site while work is in progress.

Fall Protection Anchor Point Inspection

The means, methods, and materials used to install fall protection anchor points or devices that will be used by employees shall be inspected and approved for use by a competent (fall protection) person or by a WA State licensed structural engineer or architect for conformance to the requirements of: [WAC 296-155 Part C1 Fall Protection Requirements for Construction](#) and to manufacturer's installation instructions.