

December 13, 2001

Revised December 26, 2006

Dear Mr. Wooten:

This letter replaces the December 13th, 2001 response to an inquiry relating to forklift operators certification.

1910.178(l)(1) requires employers to train operators prior to allowing them to operate forklifts. The employer must ensure that each forklift operator is competent to operate the company forklift safely through the completion of a training and an evaluation program. *“Prior to permitting an employee to operate the forklift (except for training purposes), the employer shall verify that each operator has successfully completed the training.”*

1910.178(l)(6) Certification, is the employers verification that each operator has been trained and evaluated by the company’s prescribed methods, The certification has to include the name of the operator, the date of the training, the date of the evaluation, and the identity of the person(s) performing the training or evaluation.

The term certification does not refer to a license or other document that the operator can possess. Rather, it indicates that the employer has a record of training and has verified that the employees know what they are doing when operating the forklift. An evaluation of all forklift operators performance is required every three years, or less as determined necessary.

If you are currently employed as a forklift operator, your employer is responsible for certifying you. If you are not currently employed, it is not possible for you to receive certification as intended by 1910.178, However, your past experience and training is valuable information for future job applications.

For further information please contact OR-OSHA at (800)-922-2689 or visit our Web site at www.orosha.org.

Sincerely,

Peggy Munsell, Manager
Standards & Technical Resources
Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division