



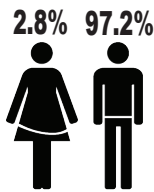
Just when it seemed it was all about the mines... It's time to wake up and smell the diesel.

Wanted: 4915 new Forklift Operators. But where are all the women?

Australian Industry is predicted to require nearly 5000 new forklift operators for nearly 5000 new jobs by 2015. Not to mention the void left by people moving out of, or retiring from existing jobs. The more skills a person can offer an employer, the more employable it makes them. But where are the women?

Just when it seemed that it was all about the mining boom and heading bush if you wanted a solid job, the Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations data shows a void of nearly 5000 Forklift Operators expected by 2015.

But where are all the women? Only a tiny 2.8% of workers



in this occupation are female, compared to 45.6%



In 2010, out of nearly 65000 people employed as Forklift Operators in Australia, fewer than 1900 are Women - that's a tiny 2.8%?

for all other occupations! The report goes on that 91% of current jobs for Forklift Operators are Full-Time Employment, and the average weekly gross wage for an Operator is over \$900.

So if you were worried you had missed the bus to the mining boom and with it solid job prospects, look locally to the data compiled by the Federal Government.

You could wait all day for new employment strategies

or programs to be developed to deal with these 5000 new jobs, or grab the bull by the horns and get your licence!

Yes, for women it's viewed as a non traditional role, but so was being a Police Officer or Truck Driver not so long ago - who is to say what's traditional any more!

One Stop Training is a Registered Training Organisation. It trains workers every week in Brisbane, Ipswich and the Gold Coast. Call 1300 556 387 for more information. Data Sourced from the Australian Government, DEEWR, 2010

Like Us On facebook 'Like' and WIN!

Every month one lucky customer will win their full course cost back just for 'Liking' us on Facebook! Search FB for 'One Stop Training - Forklift EWP', and like us to go in the draw, or visit www.onestopgroup.com.au and hit the link.



Would you tell a worker to drive a company car unlicensed?

Employers liable for unlicensed operators.

Would you authorise a worker to drive a Mack Truck down the street without knowing if they were licensed? Would you authorise a sales rep to drive the company Commodore without knowing if they were licensed?

What would an insurance company make of it if there was a claim relating to the Mack or the Commodore whilst being driven unlicensed, but authorised by the owner?

Who is liable and responsible? Everyone involved - including the person who authorised or requested the worker operate the vehicle.

So why is it that in businesses everywhere are authorising their people to operate Forklifts and Elevating Work Platforms unlicensed?

The level of exposure for all parties is massive. The employer is liable on all sorts of levels and is open to prosecution for not providing required training, not providing a safe system of work and all sorts of other areas. Supervisors are responsible parties in the process and are liable also, as is the worker themselves.

Just because something has always been done a certain way, doesn't mean that it's the best or safest way of doing it.

A better way is not always the easy way. The easy way is rarely the safe way. The unsafe way is the illegal way.

Employers and contractors are being held legally liable for allowing workers to execute tasks in a unsafe way, such as operate equipment unlicensed.

Legally any person operating a Forklift or elevating work platform must hold the Permit to operate that vehicle - to not do so is to be in breach of the Act.

If a Forklift or Elevating Work Platform operator does not hold a licence to operate that piece of plant, or a formal Training plan

and program issued by a Registered Training Organisation - then the operator is deemed unlicensed, not-competent and operating illegally.

The responsible parties are the worker and the employer, and any party who authorised the use of the equipment.

It is no different and no less illegal to driving a car unlicensed, and can put employers and workers in breach and into prosecution just as quickly.

It makes no difference where the equipment is operated. It makes no difference who owns it.

Next time, before asking someone to 'jump on the forklift for a minute, and grab that pallet', or 'zip up in the

boom lift and change that bulb', remember that if you're asking, you're authorising, if your authorising, you're involved, if something goes awry, all people involved are going to be answering some serious questions, and opening themselves up to the risk of legal action.

Not licensed? Don't touch it. Don't know? Don't authorise it.

If you find your staff are not licensed, there is a solution. Call 1300 556 387 to start the training process.



EWP'S - SOME TOP TIPS FOR BOOM AND SCISSOR LIFTS

- Select an EWP that is suitable for the task and site conditions.
- Ensure that an EWP is operated by a competent person who follows the EWP manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not exceed the safe working load (SWL) of an EWP.
- Check ground conditions along an EWP's planned travel path and its work area to ensure that the terrain is level and free from obstructions.
- Do not operate an EWP on slopes where the gradient exceeds the limits prescribed by the EWP's manufacturer. If this is not possible, a different EWP or an alternative, such as scaffolding, may be required.
- Do not operate an EWP on soft surfaces, unless measures are taken to evenly distribute its load.



- Monitor weather conditions, such as rain and wind speed. Rain may soften the ground. Do not use an EWP when the wind exceeds limits specified by the manufacturer.
- Before moving an EWP, the boom should be fully lowered to its travel position. A lower centre of gravity provides more stability.
- Before raising the basket, chock the wheels and extend the outriggers (if they are required).
- Ensure that level indicators, where fitted, are used and monitored at all times.
- In an emergency, failure or when a warning device is sounded, stop, lower the basket to rest position and make the EWP safe.

