

Forklift licensing in the rural industry

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 anyone carrying out high risk work in the rural industry, such as operating a forklift, must hold a high risk work licence (HRW).

This fact sheet focuses on forklifts as the main piece of high risk plant used in the rural industry. Tractors and other items of plant are often modified to operate in a similar way to a forklift, therefore a HRW licence may be required to operate these too.

What types of licence are relevant to the rural industry?

A licence to operate plant or machinery is called a HRW licence. There is a different *class* of HRW licence for various types of plant and machinery.

The definitions and examples on page 2 and 3 will help you determine if your machinery (modified or otherwise) is classed as a forklift requiring a HRW licence for operation.

Any modifications undertaken need to comply with the specified design criteria for tractor construction and the end product should meet or exceed the design criteria.

In the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011, **forklift truck** means a *powered industrial truck equipped with lifting media made up of a **mast** and an **elevating load carriage** to which is attached a pair of **fork arms** or other arms that can be raised 900 mm or more above the ground but does not include a pedestrian-operated truck or a pallet truck.*

A piece of plant fitted with fork arms does not automatically require a forklift HRW licence for operation. A **mast** and an **elevating load carriage** are essential elements of the definition; thus, where fork arms are fitted onto a boom (as in the case of a multi-purpose non-slewing mobile crane or tool carrier depicted on page 2), a forklift HRW licence would not be required.

Work health and safety legislation places a duty of care for health and safety on the employer (as a person conducting a business or undertaking) to ensure that workers are provided with adequate information, instruction, training and supervision to enable work to be performed in a manner that is safe and without risks to health and safety. This applies whether or not the worker is required to hold a HRW licence to operate the plant.

The operator of the plant must be deemed a 'competent person' by the person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU). 'Competent person' means a person who has acquired through training, qualification or experience the knowledge and skills to carry out the task.

Work health and safety legislation also places a duty of care for health and safety on the person operating the plant (as a worker for the PCBU) to take reasonable care for their own and other people's health and safety (including ensuring that they are able to operate plant safely whether or not a HRW licence is required).

A forklift HRW licence would be required for operation of the pieces of plant below as they are configured with a mast and elevating load carriage to which is attached a pair of fork arms.

In addition to holding a HRW licence in forklift truck operation, the operator should also receive training specific to the operation of the tractor configured in this manner, as there is a very real risk of overbalancing the plant while under load as it is not counterbalanced in a manner similar to a conventional forklift truck.



The items of plant pictured below do not fall within the definition of a forklift truck as they do not have a mast and elevating load carriage. Therefore a forklift HRW licence is not required.

In all circumstances, the operator will require plant specific training to ensure that work is performed in a manner that is safe and without risk to health.



This pallet truck does not fall within the definition of a forklift and a LF licence is not required.



This pedestrian-operated truck does not fall within the definition of a forklift and a LF licence is not required.

Multi-purpose non-slewing mobile crane / tool carrier

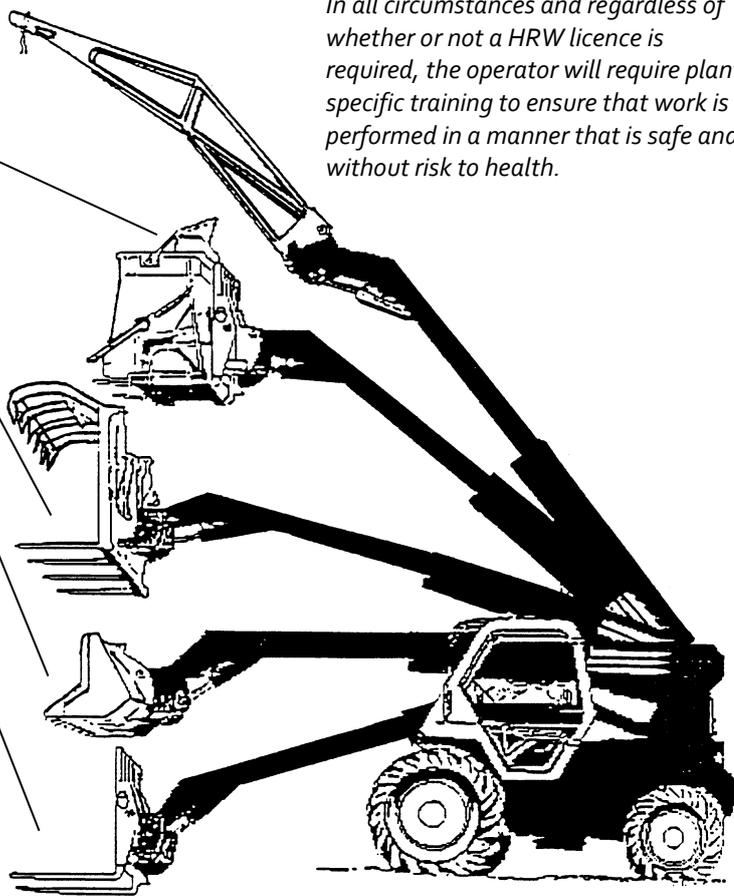
CN licence required (the plant is fitted with a boom or jib) for a non-slewing mobile crane with a capacity of more than three tonnes.

EWP licence required (plant is fitted with personnel box) for a boom type elevating work platform with a boom length of 11 metres or more

No HRW licence required (plant is fitted with grab attachment for which there is no licence class)

No HRW licence required (plant is fitted with bucket attachment for which there is no licence class)

No HRW licence required (plant is fitted with forks or tines but there is no mast or elevating load carriage)



The licence required depends on the attachment being used.

In all circumstances and regardless of whether or not a HRW licence is required, the operator will require plant specific training to ensure that work is performed in a manner that is safe and without risk to health.

How do I undertake the training to obtain a high risk work licence?

Training for HRW licences can only be delivered by a registered training organisation (RTO). A person wishing to obtain a licence must receive formal training by a RTO and informal learning under a training plan while being supervised by someone who holds the appropriate HRW licence.

If on the job training can not be achieved at an employers' workplace, the trainee can contact a RTO and arrange for on the job training to be completed at a RTO premises that has been set up as a simulated workplace.

Trainees and/or employers are encouraged to develop a relationship with a RTO early in the

training development process to ensure that the training plan meets regulated requirements. The RTO will be able to assist the trainee/employer in identifying and developing suitable evidence collection and recording methods, ensuring that the correct format and completion of the logbook has been followed.

A list of RTOs is available at www.training.gov.au.

How do I apply for a high risk work licence?

For information about applying for a HRW licence and work health and safety laws, visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or call 1300 362 128.