

# Forklift selection – Choosing the right Forklift for textile

by Imtiaz Rastgar, Rastgar & Co.

**Choosing the right forklift is important for your business. It affects everything from operation costs, productivity, employee morale and stock management. There is a large range of forklifts, and each one is designed to be used for specific jobs. So how do you know what type you need for your business? This article highlights several important factors when choosing the right forklift.**

## Environment

The business environment will influence the type of forklift, tyre selection and fuel type. The floor surface and conditions the forklift will be working are also important considerations.

- ❖ Smooth or rough surfaces?
- ❖ Inside, outdoors or both?
- ❖ How many hours per day will the forklift be used?

## Load size / capacity

It would be a big mistake to choose a forklift with a maximum lift capacity that is below your requirements. It is important to look at the following:

- ❖ What stock will the forklift be handling?
- ❖ What is the average load weight?
- ❖ What is the heaviest load you need to lift?
- ❖ What is the width of your loads?

The type of load also matters as there are specific forklift attachments that can enhance a standard forklift and help you move the load more efficiently. There are many types of attachments available such as appliance clamps, carton clamps, paper roll clamps, etc.

Side shift is another feature which will allow you to move any load left and right, without having to move the truck. This allows for more accurate load placements.

## Height

Similar to maximum load, you want to ensure a forklift which will meet your height restrictions.

- ❖ What is your typical lift height?
- ❖ What is the highest point the forklift needs to reach?
- ❖ Are there any height restrictions to consider? (eg: ceiling beams or low hanging lights)

You must also take into consideration the collapsed height of the mast, if you require the forklift to move underneath a fixed height structure (eg: a garage or container door). Also check your warehouse height and aisle width requirements, as this will greatly assist you in finding the right unit.

## Bale Clamps - Forklift attachments improve productivity and safety

Hyster carries a complete line of specialty forklift attachments designed to improve functionality, increase productivity and meet all specific application needs. The palletless handling of nearly any type of baled product such as cotton, wool, synthetic textile bales, corrugated, newsprint, rag, hay and metal scrap bales translates into savings in time and storage costs.

## Fuel type

There are three types of fuel options – electric, gas or diesel. The electric forklifts will cost more initially, but you will reap the rewards over time as they have a longer lifespan and cheaper consumption. They produce no emissions, therefore are recommended for working indoors or in cold climates.

Gas or diesel forklifts can lift much bigger loads and move faster. Diesel forklifts are strongly recommended if the



forklift will be used for heavy lifting or outdoors. With gas forklifts you have the choice of LPG or CNG – both are quick to refuel and have a long lifespan.

## Tyre selection

There are various types of tyres available for forklifts. The most common are solid or pneumatic, but there are also white non-marking tyres and cushioned tyres – each with their own specific use and suited to certain environments. Choosing the right tyres will impact on the forklift's handling and safety.

## Ergonomics

High-quality adjustable seating is important as forklift operators are sitting in their machines for hours at a time. Investing in quality ergonomics will lessen the likelihood of injuries, such as back pain, which can be caused by repetitive tasks performed in uncomfortable seating.

## New or Used?

If you think your forklift will be used for more than four hours per day – a leased or new forklift will be much more suitable for you. In this case, the type of forklift you require and your budget will determine which option is the best.

**RMH is authorized distributor of Hyster – UK forklift trucks in Pakistan. For more information please visit [www.rmh.com.pk](http://www.rmh.com.pk) ◆**