

A **60 year old male** employee was **struck by a forklift** as he was standing beside another stationary forklift instructing that operator on some paperwork. This accident happened in a warehouse dock area.

One of the victim's duties was to train new forklift operators. At the time of the accident, the victim was training two new temporary employees on forklift operation in the warehouse. The victim was standing beside a stationary PIT instructing one of his trainees when the other employee/trainee struck and pinned the victim between the two forklifts. According to employee interviews, the victim was standing facing west and would not have seen the second forklift approaching. The accident happened approximately 23 feet inside the warehouse at Dock Door # 208.

During the interview with the operator who struck the victim, it was explained that he only worked at the facility for 2 days and had not received job specific forklift training from this company, but he had operated a forklift at another company. On his first day he was placed on a forklift at the beginning of the shift and instructed to unload and load freight without having received any classroom training. Loading and unloading trailers was a part of the training however the victim had not performed any demonstrations of loading and unloading the trucks or any forklift operation.

At the time of the accident, it was stated that he was traveling in reverse from dock door # 170 back to dock door # 208, approximately 220 feet, without a load, to ask the victim if there was any more freight to be unloaded. He informed the CSHO that the brakes would not stop so he tried blowing the horn, but it was inoperable; therefore, he ended up hitting the victim. He went on to explain that he had reported to his supervisor earlier in the night that the brakes on this PIT were not functioning properly.

Other witnesses interviewed indicated that the PIT operator was not looking in the direction of travel while moving between dock doors and it seemed as if he may have begun to go around the stationary lift where the victim was standing but instead decided to stop but could not stop in time, therefore, striking the victim.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1 **Type of Violation:** **Serious** **\$2100**

29 CFR 1910.178(l)(2)(i)(A): The employer did not ensure that a powered industrial truck operator was under the direct supervision of persons who have the knowledge, training, and experience to train operators and evaluate their competence.

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In that a PIT operator trainee was allowed to load/unload a trailer at dock door # 170 approximately 220 feet away from the PIT trainer who was located at dock door # 208.

Citation 1 Item 2 Type of Violation: Serious \$4000

29 CFR 1910.178(l)(2)(ii): Training did not consist of a combination of formal instruction (e.g., lecture, discussion, interactive computer learning, video tape, written material), practical training (demonstrations performed by the trainer and practical exercises performed by the trainee) and evaluation of the operator's performance in the workplace.

In that powered industrial truck training for two temporary employees did not include formal instruction or demonstrations performed by the trainer.

Citation 1 Item 3 Type of Violation: Serious \$5400

29 CFR 1910.178(n)(6): Industrial truck drivers were not required to look in the direction of, and keep a clear view of the path of travel:

In that the employee operating the UniCarrier forklift, model MCT1B2L25S, chassis # CT1B2-983341 in reverse was not looking in the direction of travel. An employee was fatality injured when struck by and pinned between the UniCarrier forklift and a Hyster forklift sitting stationary.

Citation 1 Item 4 Type of Violation: Serious \$4000

29 CFR 1910.178(p)(1): Powered industrial truck(s) with a defect(s) or in any way deemed unsafe had not been withdrawn from service until restored to safe operating condition(s):
In that powered industrial trucks, in the following instances, were not removed from service until restored to safe operation:

a. UniCarrier PIT, model MCT1B2L25S, chassis # CT1B2-983341, Truck # 5517019; did not have an operable horn.

b. Hyster PIT, model E60XN-33, serial # A268N09855L, Truck # 5513024; did not have operable lights.

Citation 1 Item 5 Type of Violation: Serious \$4000

29 CFR 1910.178(q)(7): Industrial trucks were not examined daily before being placed in service.

In that, daily inspections of the UniCarrier PIT, model # MCT1B2L25S, Chassis # CT1B2-983341 involved in the fatal accident on 09/14/2022; were not being conducted before the forklift was placed in service.

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