



Merchant Shipping Directorate



## DANGERS OF FORKLIFT TRUCK OPERATIONS

### Information Notice 50

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,  
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the Marine Safety Investigation Report [No: 08/2023](#). This report highlights the potential hazards associated with forklift truck (FLT) operations.

A review of several industry guidelines highlights the dangers attributed to FLT's, which are of concern when not operated as purposely designed. Common hazards include overturning of FLT's, falling loads, personnel falling from forks, crushing injuries and blocked sights. Particular attention is also drawn to the suggestion that, *"Personnel other than the driver should not be carried on a truck unless it is constructed or adapted for the purpose. Riding on the forks of a fork-lift truck is particularly dangerous. The driver should be careful to keep all parts of the body within the limits of the width of the truck or load."*

Furthermore, the Marine Safety Investigation Unit (MSIU) has been notified of another similar occurrence in the past, and attention is also drawn to MSIU Report [No: 20/2021](#).

All concerned are strongly recommended to bring this Notice and the investigation report to the attention of all crew serving onboard Maltese registered vessels.

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Malta Transport Centre  
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360  
Email: [mershipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt](mailto:mershipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt)  
[www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration](http://www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration)



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