

**Variable reach telescopic material handlers, aka PITS,** account for a significant number of tragic accidents and fatalities.

The most common types of accidents involving telescopic forklifts are caused by operators not properly trained about loads, load charts, attachment weights and/or manufacturer approval status.

The only time a trainee can operate a PIT is under the direct supervision of a person who has the knowledge, training, and experience to train and **evaluate** operators; and when operating the PIT does not endanger the trainee or other employees.

**The operator training program must consist of:**

- Formal instruction such as lecture and discussion, interactive computer learning, video tapes, and written material.
- Practical training such as demonstrations done by the trainer and practical exercises performed by trainees.
- Evaluation of trainee performance.

Initial operator training program must cover the subjects in [Table 4, Required Training Topics](#).

**Written records of operator training and evaluations must be kept that include the following information:**

- Name of the operator
- Date of the training
- Date of the **evaluation**
- Name of the person giving the training or **evaluation**.

**PIT operator’s refresher training must be conducted if *any* of the following occur:**

- The operator is involved in an accident or near-miss incident.
- The operator is seen operating the PIT in an unsafe manner.
- An evaluation shows the operator is not operating the PIT safely.
- The operator is assigned to drive a different type or modified PIT.
- Conditions in the workplace change that could affect safe operation of the PIT.

*Note: Refresher training is required only in those topics where the operator has been found deficient.*

**Re-evaluate PIT operator’s performance.**

**PIT operator’s performance a must be *re-evaluated* at each of these times:**

- As part of their initial training program.
- After refresher training to determine the effectiveness of the training.
- **At least once every 3 years.**

**Table 4**

[https://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Rules/Chapter/863/WAC296-863.pdf#WAC\\_296\\_863\\_60005](https://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Rules/Chapter/863/WAC296-863.pdf#WAC_296_863_60005)

