

Powered Industrial Trucks (PIT's, i.e., Forklifts)

For the wine industry there are two main sections of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) that apply. 296-307 for Agriculture and 296-800 for General Industry. Most wineries fall under General Industry so that is the focus of this outline.

Definition: A Powered industrial truck (PIT) means a mobile, power-driven vehicle used to carry, push, pull, lift, stack, or tier material (WAC 296-863-700).

Examples within a Winery: The most commonly used PIT in a winery is a forklift. A forklift is a small industrial vehicle with a power-operated pronged platform that can be raised and lowered for insertion under a load to be lifted and moved. Forklifts are used for moving barrels, smaller tanks, bottling operations, and loading and unloading supplies and equipment. They are frequently used during crush to unload bins of grapes from a flatbed truck and dump same into a receiving hopper for crushing purposes. Another commonly used PIT in a winery is a powered pallet jack.

Regulatory Summary (with emphasis on application for wineries covered under General Industry):

1. Forklifts are the most commonly used powered industrial equipment in a winery.
2. DOSH provides standards for safe operation of forklifts (WAC 296-863-400 for general industry, and WAC 296-307-520 for agriculture – for additional information see links below).
3. Wineries who use forklifts or other powered industrial equipment must address industrial equipment training and safety procedures in their written Accident Prevention Program (APP).
4. Prior to operating a forklift, all forklift users must have documented training, including but not limited to formal instruction (lecture or video), practical hands-on training, and an evaluation of the operator's performance. Evaluation of a forklift operator must be repeated every three years (WAC 296-863-60015). Required training topics are in the following table (WAC 296-863-60005):

Topics related to powered industrial truck	Topics related to your winery
Operating instructions	Surface conditions where the PIT will be operated
Warnings and precautions for the types of PIT the operator will be authorized to operate	Composition of loads to be carried and load stability
Differences between the PIT and the automobile	Load manipulation, stacking, and unstacking
PIT controls and instrumentation: Where they are located, what they do, and how they work	Pedestrian traffic in areas where the PIT will be operated
Engine or motor operation	Narrow aisles and other restricted places where the PIT will be operated
Steering and maneuvering	Use of door opening and closing devices
Visibility (including restrictions due to loading)	Hazardous (classified) locations where the PIT will be operated
Fork and attachment adaptation, operation, and use limitations	Ramps and other sloped surfaces that could affect the PITs stability
PIT capacity	Closed environments and other areas where insufficient ventilation or poor PIT maintenance could cause a buildup of carbon monoxide or diesel exhaust
PIT stability	Other unique or potentially hazardous environmental conditions in the workplace that could affect safe operation
Any PIT inspection and maintenance that the operator will be required to perform	
Refueling	
Charging and recharging of batteries	
Operating limitations	
Any other operating instructions, warnings, or precautions listed in the operator's manual for the types of PIT that the employee is being trained to operate	

5. Separate downloadable documents and information are provided at the following links and under the Winery Safety tab at www.winerywise.com:

- **WAC 296-863-400** <http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha/Rules/pits/HTML/296-863-400.htm>
- **WAC 296-307-520** <http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha/rules/agriculture/HTML/part-w.htm>
- **Guide on preventing carbon monoxide poisoning from forklift operations:** <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/Files/HazardousChem/PreventCOPoisonFmForklifts.pdf>
- **Guide on Safe Forklift Operations:** <http://www.lni.wa.gov/IPUB/417-031-000.pdf>
- **Forklift Safety Training Requirements and Helpful Tips:** <http://www.lni.wa.gov/formpub/Detail.asp?DocID=1772>