

Hazards of Using Job-Made Boxes/Baskets and Platforms

In June, OSHA issued a Safety and Health Information Bulletin on the hazards of using job-made boxes/baskets and platforms. From 2002 to 2020, OSHA found 57 incidents involving these types of platforms. In 57 incidents, 46 employees suffered serious injuries and 33 employees died.

Job-made boxes, baskets, and platforms (collectively, “job-made boxes”) are makeshift attachments for powered industrial trucks, such as forklifts or other similar industrial material handling equipment. These devices are typically made of wood, metal, or plastic and generally consist of a platform with three side walls. Job-made boxes are sometimes used in the construction and general industries to lift workers, materials, and/or equipment to various heights on the platform or allow workers to step onto the platform from an elevated level to perform job tasks.

In several worksite incidents, workers have fallen from improperly secured and/or poorly constructed job-made boxes. Workers have also been injured when they were struck by or crushed beneath falling platforms. Workers in or on job-made boxes are usually not protected from falling by means of fall protection.



A typical job-made box consists of a wooden platform with three walls. In this example, the job-made box was attached to a powered industrial truck (PIT) using a strap looped around the center of the wood beams that make up the longest wall and a galvanized hook. A worker was injured when the hook’s safety latch failed and the platform fell to the ground.

Powered industrial truck manufacturers do not approve job-made boxes. Job-made boxes attached to powered industrial trucks (PITs) have unknown load capacities and are considered

modifications, additions, or alterations covered under OSHA Standards for Powered Industrial Trucks. Since these makeshift aids for assisting with working at heights are not manufacturer-approved or stability and load tested, they are not permitted under any of the provisions in 29 CFR 1910.178 that allow for such modifications.

Training - Employers should instruct employees to not use unapproved job-made boxes on worksites. When workers use commercially available boxes, baskets, and platforms in compliance with OSHA standards, employers are required to train workers on the safe use and any recommended safe practices of the equipment, according to the manufacturer’s recommendations, as well as how to protect personnel and objects from falling from these types of boxes, baskets, and platforms.

OSHA’s fall protection standards also include training requirements. For example, in construction, the Fall Protection Training Requirements standard (29 CFR § 1926.503) requires employers to provide a training program for all employees who might be exposed to fall hazards on the job.

Additional Information -OSHA provides compliance assistance through a variety of programs. OSHA On-Site Consultation Program offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health services to small and medium-sized businesses in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories, with priority given to high-hazard worksites. Consultants from local and state agencies, vendors or universities work with employers to identify workplace hazards and how to fix them, provide advice for compliance with OSHA standards, train and educate, and assist in establishing and improving safety and health programs. On-Site Consultation services are separate from OSHA enforcement efforts and do not result in penalties or citations. However, employers must agree to correct any serious and imminent danger hazards identified in a timely manner. To locate the OSHA On-Site Consultation Program nearest you, call 1-800-321- OSHA (6742) or visit www.osha.gov/consultation.

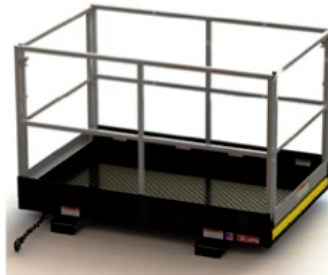


Monthly Toolbox Talk

BIE Safety Advisor

Safe Methods and Requirements Powered Industrial Vehicle Attachments

1. Employers should prohibit employees from using unapproved job- made boxes for lifting workers, materials, or equipment. In most cases, manufacturers of PITs include a safety warning that prohibits use of unauthorized attachments in their operators' manual, and provide contact information on how to obtain approved attachments.
2. Employers can use commercially available boxes, baskets, and platforms that are approved for that brand or type of PIT. Refer to example image (below) of a commercially produced box.



3. Employers should not mix and match equipment that may not be interchangeable. In most cases, these types of attachments that are on the market include manufacturer documentation to help employers identify and follow attachment and stability requirements and load limits.
4. Platforms specifically meant to be attached to PITs can be purchased from several manufacturers and provide a safer alternative to job-made boxes. When properly used and secured, commercially produced boxes, baskets, and platforms with fork attachment points have known load limits and usage guidelines.

Field modifications to some types of PITs may also need manufacturer or nationally-recognized testing laboratory certification for compliance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A92.2—2015 *American National Standard for Vehicle-Mounted Elevating and Rotating Work Platforms*.

OSHA's construction standards for scaffolds (Subpart L of 29 CFR § 1926.451-454 and Appendices A-E) also contain requirements that protect employees working on platforms elevated by forklift type trucks

Employers whose workers perform job tasks at heights, including on platforms or in baskets, are required to comply with OSHA's fall protection standards. Those requirements are contained within OSHA's construction industry standards (29 CFR §§ 1926.451(g)(1) and 1926.501-503). OSHA requires employers to provide fall protection at elevations of six feet in the construction industry. Fall protection may include the use of a complete guardrail system and/or a personal fall arrest system.

