



25.9 Medical Considerations for Workplace Vehicle Operations: An Employee's Guide

HSE does not currently set specific medical standards for lift trucks, pendant cranes, or other workplace vehicles, and no legislation directly covers this.

Nevertheless, it is good practice to ensure employees are medically fit to operate such equipment, applying similar standards as for staff who drive cars or vans for work.



HSE have adopted the standards published by the Drivers' Medical Unit at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and in most cases, a standard equivalent to that for the Group 1 entitlement (DVLA medical standards) should be applied.



Medical Considerations

The following are some of the criteria that prospective Group 1 drivers' health may be compared to when assessing fitness to undertake driving duties:



Suitability: Driving suspension on medical grounds usually suspends workplace driving duties for the same period. Recommended minimum age is 18, with a mature and sensible attitude.

Vision: Minimum 6/12 on the Snellen scale (with correction if needed) in both eyes, or in the single functional eye. Adequate visual field is required.

Blood Pressure & Circulatory Disorders: Blood pressure must be well controlled and below 180/110. Cardiac issues should be discussed with a medical practitioner, who may seek further advice.



Hearing: Must hear instructions and warning signals even with PPE. Hearing aids are acceptable; Functional assessment may be needed if issues arise.

Epilepsy & Loss of Consciousness Conditions: History of epilepsy may not prevent driving if the individual meets ordinary licence standards. Other conditions may require Occupational Health guidance.



Diabetes: Diet- or medication-controlled diabetes generally allows driving. Unstable insulin-dependent diabetes may need OH advice. Vision or other complications must meet additional standards.

Medication: Medication warnings regarding vehicle or machinery operation require OH physician guidance.

Musculoskeletal Considerations: Drivers must safely operate controls, mount/dismount, turn their head while reversing, and react to emergencies promptly.

Mental Health Considerations: Suspected or known mental health disorders may result in temporary or permanent suspension pending OH review.

Guidance is extensive and complex, so fitness decisions may be difficult at the assessment. Additional information, input, or practical (functional) testing may be needed to determine if health deficits still allow safe operation of fork trucks and other vehicles.

Further Information

The full test of DVLA medical guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessing-fitness-to-drive-a-guide-for-medical-professionals>.

A copy of this & other documentation can be found from <https://mohs.co.uk/resources> or using the QR code at the top of this page.