

Is your warehouse as safe and compliant as you think it is?

With ~500,000 forklifts and powered pallet trucks in operation across the UK, most incidents happen at sites that believed their controls were already adequate.

01 Safety

THE HUMAN COST

Forklifts are everyday equipment, but the harm they cause is severe and persistent. Here's the scale of the risk in UK warehouses and who bears most of it.

~27

1 IN 5

UK workers killed in forklift-related accidents each year — roughly 1 in 5 of all workplace fatalities

1,200+

UK workers hospitalised with serious forklift injuries each year

40–60%

ON FOOT

Of recent forklift incidents involved people on foot, not operators

2x

UK AVG
T&S

Workers in transport and storage are around twice as likely to be killed at work as the UK average

02 Efficiency

THE OPERATIONAL COST

The cost of getting safety wrong doesn't stop at the incident. Lost days, downtime, and supply chain disruptions all hit the bottom line.

40.1m

Working days lost to workplace injury and ill-health in the UK each year



80%

Of industrial businesses experienced unplanned downtime in the last three years, averaging four hours per incident



£150k–£300k

Estimated cost per hour of unplanned downtime in heavy industrial operations



6–10%

Of annual revenue is lost to supply chain interruptions



03 Compliance

THE LEGAL COST

When controls fail, the financial penalty often dwarfs the cost of preventing the incident in the first place. Three recent UK prosecutions illustrate the order of magnitude.

£500k

2023

UK E-COMMERCE DISTRIBUTION COMPANY

An operator was killed when his forklift clipped a kerb, overturned, and trapped him under the roll cage. Seatbelts weren't enforced, and traffic-route controls were inadequate.



Risk assessment failure



Poor traffic controls



No seatbelt enforcement

£433k

2025

UK PLANT HIRE & LOGISTICS COMPANY

A delivery driver was killed when an uninspected forklift fell from a trailer while reversing, trapping him between vehicles. No pre-shift check had been done, and his seatbelt wasn't in use.



Maintenance failure



No pre-shift inspection



Defective equipment

£30k

2026

UK MOBILE FLEET SERVICES COMPANY

A worker suffered life-changing leg injuries when concrete blocks toppled onto him inside an HGV trailer. No pedestrian exclusion zone was in place, and the forklift lacked authorisation.



No pedestrian segregation



Unauthorised vehicle operation



Unsafe loading process

£5-£30

Lost for every £1 of direct forklift damage, through downtime, damaged stock, racking, floors, and operational disruption. Direct repair costs are only the start.

FIND OUT WHERE YOUR GAPS ARE

Before an incident does it for you.

Powerfleet helps warehouse and logistics operators reduce forklift incidents, improve site visibility, and stay ahead of compliance requirements with connected vehicle intelligence.

FREE site safety assessment

One of our specialists will review your current controls, flag compliance gaps, and show you what better looks like, at no cost.

Get your free assessment

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