

Back in September 2020 I provided feedback having conducted my first sessions using the iTRUK modern training method. Having delivered numerous courses since then I wanted to update you on progress.

Practical test results have shown a significant and consistent improvement in candidate performance. Course reviews of refresher training highlight a common viewpoint held by operators. During training and assessment using the iTRUK modern method, candidates are more relaxed as they are operating the truck in a manner which they find natural – it's what they do at work every day! No longer are they adopting an alien operating process for the duration of the course - only for this process to be forgotten about until a refresher course 3 years later.

My customers agree, it makes sense for their employees to be trained using the procedures they will adopt upon conclusion of the training. For the last 40 years and more, candidates have been trained in a method which they only adopted for the duration of the course. Thereafter they reverted to a different operating process.

It is a statement of fact that 2 out of 3 injuries involving forklift trucks are sustained by colleagues on foot. Addressing factors which cause these accidents must surely be our main focus. Traditional methods claim to have that same objective. However, for many operators trained using traditional methods, remembering to apply the handbrake occupies their thought process. Modern methods allow operators to concentrate on observation, stability, looking in the direction of travel etc. These are the factors that are going to reduce the accident statistics; prevent these life-changing injuries. Candidates can now do this without the distraction of thinking about pulling on the handbrake every time they go to operate a hydraulic control.

During the last 6 months I have had a great opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the iTRUK modern method of training. Candidate feedback has been extremely positive and likewise from Supervisors/Managers.

Change doesn't always come easy and a lot of existing Instructors may be reluctant to move out of their comfort zone. I have over 35 years of experience as a forklift truck instructor. During this time, I have struggled to see the benefits of the handbrake fixation. At last we have a turning in the road. To those instructors waiting and wondering if they should make this move, ask yourself, what are you waiting for?

I urge the forklift industry to adopt the modern training method instigated by Dave Sparrow at iTRUK. Improving the safety of operators and pedestrians is surely what training is all about. Time has come to move this training forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Adopt the iTRUK modern method.

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