

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Powered Industrial Trucks

Learning objective: The student shall be able to identify eight different categories of powered industrial trucks to assure their suitability for potentially hazardous atmospheres.

Powered industrial trucks, commonly called “fork lifts,” may run on diesel, gasoline, electricity, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), compressed natural gas, or a combination of energy sources.

There are 15 categories of powered industrial trucks, and the fire codes regulate their suitability for use in hazardous atmospheres. Each category is identified by a letter designation, and a permanent identifying sticker should be attached to the truck.

The following table is only a sample of the different truck categories and their applications:

Type	Power	Application
D	Diesel	General, ordinary hazard locations
G	Gasoline	General, ordinary hazard locations
E	Electric	General, ordinary hazard locations
G-LP	Gasoline and LPG (dual type)	General, ordinary hazard locations
EE	Electric (enclosed)	Flammable liquid processing/storage
GS	Gasoline with special safeguards	Bagged grain, starch storage
DY	Diesel with no electric equipment	Grain, starch, wood flour processing
LPS	LPG with special safeguards	Textile or cordage fiber storage



For additional information, refer to NFPA 505, *Fire Safety Standard for Powered Industrial Trucks Including Type Designations, Areas of Use, Conversions, Maintenance, and Operations*.