

OSHA LOADING DOCK AUDIT CHEAT SHEET

What Inspectors Look For Before You Even Know They're There

Loading docks are high-traffic, high-hazard zones. Use this self-audit cheat sheet to identify and correct the most common compliance violations before an OSHA inspector walks your floor.

1. Trailer Restraint & Wheel Chocking

- ☐ **Are all trailers properly chocked before a forklift enters?**
OSHA 1910.178(k)(1): Brakes shall be set and wheel chocks placed under rear wheels.
- ☐ **Are wheel restraints in safe, working condition?**
Rubber chocks that are torn, dry-rotted, or rounded fail to meet the standard of a secure restraint. Replace degraded rubber with permanent steel chocks immediately.
- ☐ **Is the chocking process safe for the worker?**
OSHA General Duty Clause: Employers must provide a workplace free from recognized hazards causing physical harm (such as repetitive strain from prying jammed rubber chocks).

2. Dock Levelers and Plates

- ☐ **Are dock plates and levelers secured to prevent sliding?**
OSHA 1910.26(c): Dockboards shall be secured in position.
- ☐ **Do levelers have sufficient load capacity for the heaviest forklift + freight combo?**
Inspectors will check the data plate on the leveler against the weight of your lift equipment.

3. Housekeeping and Walking Surfaces

- ☐ **Are the dock pads clear of debris, oil, and ice?**
OSHA 1910.22(a)(1): Places of employment must be kept clean and orderly. Slippery surfaces reduce chock grip and increase forklift skids.
- ☐ **Are open dock doors (without a trailer present) barricaded or chained off?**
OSHA 1910.28(b)(1)(i): Fall protection is required for open edges 4 feet or more above a lower level.

Pro-Tip: Inspectors often interview floor workers. If they ask a dock worker, "How do you get a stuck rubber chock out from under a tire?" and the worker mimics heavy bending and pulling, you can be cited for an ergonomic hazard. Provide upright Ergo Wheel Chocks to instantly resolve this risk profile.