

## Handling Slabs with Forklifts:

- Because forklifts can go virtually anywhere in the operation (shop, yard, warehouse, etc.), they are considered more versatile than other methods of moving slabs.
- Anyone operating a forklift must be thoroughly trained in forklift operations before ever attempting to get behind the wheel.
- Moving a slab or slabs with a forklift is a team operation, which may include as many as two other people in addition to the driver.
- When moving slabs, you must wear the proper clothing and accessories including hard-toed shoes, gloves, safety glasses and hardhats.
- Standard industry practice call for a daily pre-use inspection of equipment for potential problems, including cables, latches, grips and more.
- Your company should have a checklist for inspecting all slab handling equipment.
- Conduct an inspection of the walkways and areas through which you will be moving or transporting the slab.
- Overweight slab movement can cause the forklift to tip from swaying
- Check slabs for cracks or fissures before attempting to move a slab.

## Handling a Single Slab with a Clamp:

- Never lift more than one slab at a time, no matter what the size of the clamp is or how small the slabs are.
- When moving a single slab, the spotter directs the forklift driver to place the clamp at the center of the slab. Once the spotter is clear and at an arms distance, the slab can be raised.
- Spotter should never walk between the slab and the front of the moving forklift.
- Make sure the slab is no more than 8 to 10 inches from the ground.
- Be sure that everyone involved on the team knows the uniform hand signals or voice commands.

## Slab Lifting:

- Wait 2-3 seconds before raising the slab and allow it to settle.
- When moving the slab, don't lift it more than 8 to 10 inches of the ground.
- Keep hands and fingers clear of un-tensioned loads.
- When traveling with the raised slab, travel very slowly.
- Stay outside the fall shadow.
- Before lowering the slab, make sure there are no obstructions that the slab or clamp can rest on.

## Handling Multiple Slabs in a Sling:

- Keep hands and fingers clear of un-tensioned loads.
- Pad or protect slings from sharp edges on the load.
- Always inspect the sling for wear to determine whether the rating capacity is appropriate for the pending load.
- Make sure you know the angle the sling makes with the horizon and know the size, weight and center of gravity of the load.
- Never load in excess of rated capacity.
- Never pull a sling from a suspended load under tension.
- Never shorten a sling with knots, bolts or other make-shift devices.
- Walk the route slowly before lifting the load to make sure it is clear.

## Conclusion:

Whether you are moving a single slab with a clamp or a number of slabs in a sling, if you follow the standard procedures outlined here you will avoid hazards.