

Q: I hold a Certificate for a B2 Counterbalance can I drive a B1 Counterbalance as well?

A: No. There are 3 defined categories of Counterbalance trucks and these are

B Group - Counterbalance

- B1 Rider Electric & i.c.e. Lift truck up to and including 5 tonne
- B2 Rider Electric & i.c.e. Lift truck over 5 tonne- up to and including 15 tonne
- B3 Rider Electric & i.c.e. Lift truck over 15 tonne

Under current regulations you need to hold a certificate on each category of truck you operate

The paragraphs from the Rider-operated lift trucks Approved Code Of Practice & The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations that relate to this are below

PUWER Regulation 9

(1) Every employer shall ensure that all persons who use work equipment have received adequate training for purposes of health and safety, including training in the methods which may be adopted when using the work equipment, any risks which such use may entail and precautions to be taken.

What constitutes 'adequate training' will vary depending on the job or activity and work equipment. Your employer should determine the existing level of competence and provide training where necessary and should evaluate the existing competence of employees and others such as temporary workers supplied by an employment agency to operate the full range of work equipment that they will use;

ACOP Paragraph 60

Operators with some experience of lift trucks or relevant experience of similar vehicles may need less extensive training than those with no experience, however, do not overestimate the value of such experience. **An operator with basic training on one type of lift truck or handling attachment cannot safely operate others, on which they have not been trained, without additional conversion training**

ACOP Paragraph 80

Conversion training enables trained and experienced operators to extend the range of lift trucks they are qualified to drive. **It involves learning to operate a truck of a different category**, such as a counterbalanced operator converting to operate, for example, a reach truck, an articulated lift truck, or very narrow aisle man-up stacking truck.

ACOP Paragraph 81

It is likely to be appropriate for an operator to also go through conversion training where, for example, **they are already a fully trained operator on a counterbalanced truck (for example electric, small) but want to operate a significantly larger or more powerful counterbalanced truck.**

ACOP Paragraph 82

Approach conversion training with the same attention to detail as basic training so that all gaps in and variants on existing skills and knowledge are covered during training. There may be significant variations in the arrangement or application of controls, even in the same truck types. Conversion training should follow a similar pattern to initial lift-truck training, including basic, specific job and familiarisation training. **Operators also need testing on their ability to operate the new truck in the same way as they were tested after their initial basic training**