Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of lift chains on lift trucks could actually be lengthened completely with proper care and maintenance. For instance, correct lubrication is the most efficient method in order to extend the service capability of this part. It is really essential to apply oil periodically using a brush or whichever lube application device. The volume and frequency of oil application needs to be adequate so as to stop whatever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been properly lubricated. If this condition has happened, it is really important to lubricate the lift chains immediately.

Throughout lift chain operation it is common for some metal to metal contact to take place that can lead to several parts to wear out eventually. Once there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. To be able to avoid the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer very much suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3% elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring good lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for indications of wear and tear. The lift chains have been put together so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens when the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to go through a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the correct lubrication, in this case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains have to be replaced at once. It is very important to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.