

Sources and credits

Use the exact operator manual first. The sources below support general guidance, not approval of a particular task. Links were checked on 22 September 2026. Manufacturer examples describe only their own designs.

[HSE: Rider-operated lift trucks, L117](#)

[HSE: Workplace transport safety, HSG136](#)

[Translift Bendi: Articulated forklift trucks](#)

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Artwork and diagrams. Little Cody and FLT Academy branding: supplied project assets. Diagrams: original FLT Academy study schematics, not to scale. VNA cover artwork, where shown, is stylised and not a control or geometry reference.

Using this guide. Original learner text and revision prompts for supervised learning. Check against the actual machine and training scope before student use. Formal exam questions and marking criteria are not reproduced.

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Free downloadable study guide. v1.0.



FREE STUDY GUIDE

v1.0 | 22 September 2026

For use alongside supervised training

Bendi / Pivot-Steer

Understand articulation, clearance and load placement.

REAR BODY

FRONT / LOAD



Pivot / pinch zone - keep people clear



Theory knowledge. Practical preparation.

Pre-use checks, safe operation and revision with Little Cody.

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STUDY & PRACTICE

How to use this guide

Scope. Articulated or pivot-steer trucks in the configuration demonstrated. Bendi is a brand name; other designs differ. This is not a substitute for conversion and familiarisation on the actual machine.

Read alongside training. This original learner booklet supports supervised instruction. It does not replace the operator manual, workplace risk assessment, familiarisation or employer authorisation. Stop and ask if instructions conflict or anything is unclear.

Find your topic.

3 Training and responsibilities

4 Know your machine

5-6 Pre-use and functional checks

7-10 Limits, stability, people and travel

11-14 Category-specific techniques

15-18 Parking, emergencies and assessment preparation

19-22 Revision and suggested answers

23 Workplace notes | 24 Sources and picture credits

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

These are study notes, not permission to operate independently.



COMPLETE WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Your workplace notes

Machine make/model and training scope

Plate limits / load or occupancy / height

Approved routes, ground and environment

Required protection and daily checklist

Emergency, rescue and defect-reporting contacts

Instructor notes / points to practise

Suggested answers

7. They move with the assembly and may be damaged, trapped or leaking.
8. Fresh observations of the new travel direction and the whole swept path.
9. The examiner, for each manoeuvre.
10. After it is stably supported in the intended position and the forks can withdraw freely.
11. The model's prescribed travel height, tilt and articulation/load configuration.
12. The location and articulation/fork/brake/control positions specified for that model, with power secured and routes clear.

Training comes first

Learn the right category. Training on one machine type is not automatic competence on another. Learn the controls, protection and limits of the exact model before work.

Apply it at your workplace. Supervised practice, task-specific instruction and familiarisation must cover the routes, loads or work, and local hazards. Your employer decides when you are competent and authorised for the work.

Be ready to operate. Report anything affecting safe performance, including fatigue, illness or impairing medication. Use required PPE. Never carry an unauthorised passenger or defeat a safety device.

Keep competence current. Ask for further instruction when equipment, work or risks change, or if you feel uncertain. Report incidents and near misses.

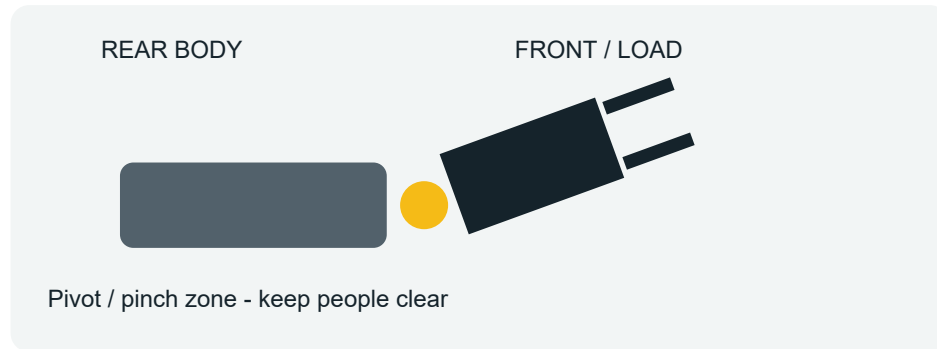
LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

A certificate is evidence of training, not a shortcut around familiarisation.



STUDY & PRACTICE

Know your machine



Identify these on your training machine:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Articulating front assembly and pivot | 2. Mast, chains and carriage |
| 3. Fork arms and locking devices | 4. Steering/articulation components |
| 5. Hydraulic hoses across moving sections | 6. Operator compartment and required restraint |
| 7. Rear body and counterweight | 8. Tyres, wheels and access steps |
| 9. Battery or power-source components | 10. Capacity plate and hydraulic controls |

REVISION / ANSWERS 1-6

Suggested answers

1. A changing pinch/crush zone between moving sections and surrounding objects.
2. No. Check the front assembly, rear body, load corners and full swept path.
3. Use the actual articulated truck's prescribed stacking configuration; do not apply a blanket rule from another type.
4. Stop immediately and do not resume until the danger area is clear.
5. Stop and make a safe correction or obtain a revised plan; do not force past racking.
6. No. The plate limits still apply.

Check your understanding

7. Why check hoses near the pivot?

8. What is required before a reversing shunt?

9. Who sets the assessed shunt allowance?

10. When may a rack load be released?

11. What must be restored after retrieval?

12. What is a safe parked configuration?

Pre-use: look first

Before each shift/use. Follow the model and site checklist. Check the machine identity, instruction book, plate/labels and any required inspection status. A daily check does not replace maintenance or thorough examination.

Inspect articulation joints and their visible guards, hoses and cables without entering pinch areas. Check forks, locks, mast, chains, wheels, tyres, leaks, steps, overhead guard and required restraint. Ensure covers and power-source retainers are secure. Report wear, damage or unusual play; do not test play by placing hands in a joint.

Record and report. Do not assume the previous operator reported damage. If a defect could affect safety, do not operate. Follow isolation and reporting arrangements.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

Tag unsafe equipment: V.O.R. - Vehicle Off Road / Do Not Use. Follow the site isolation procedure.



STUDY & PRACTICE

Pre-use: test safely

Follow the actual model checklist for steering/articulation, travel direction, service and parking brakes, horn, presence devices and hydraulic functions. Check smooth response in a clear area with nobody in the articulation zone. Do not import a different truck's control sequence or braking arrangement.

Keep the test controlled. Use an authorised clear area, low-risk conditions and competent supervision during training. Never bypass a protection device to see what happens.

Before moving off. Select the intended function/direction and make fresh observations. Use the enable/travel controls and any brake release only through the model-specific sequence taught by your instructor.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

GOBO: Gear - Observation - Brake - Observation. Apply it through the actual model procedure.



REVISION / QUESTIONS 1-6

Check your understanding

1. What extra danger comes from the articulation joint?

2. Is clearance of the front wheel enough?

3. Must steering always be straight for a lift?

4. What if a person steps into the pivot area?

5. What should you do if the approach is too tight?

6. Does articulation increase the rated capacity?

Ready for assessment

Confirm your scope. Ask which machine, configuration and practical exercises are included. Tell the instructor if a control or task is unfamiliar.

Theory at FLT Academy. The formal online test is supervised and unlocked by the trainer. Timing starts when you open it. Wait for the instruction to begin, and ask about the test rules beforehand.

Practical assessment. Listen to the briefing, make your checks and observations, and stop whenever safety requires it. The examiner explains the assessment rules; this guide is not a marking sheet.

Use the next pages to revise. Answer in your own words before checking the suggested answers. These are fresh study prompts, not copies of the live examination.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

Ask now if you are unsure. Understanding matters more than memorising a phrase.



Know the operating limits

Read the plate for the actual load centre, lift height and attachment. Check load weight, distribution and pallet support. Articulation does not allow a truck to exceed its rating. The right approach angle and clearance are part of the task, not a reason to stretch the load farther out.

WEIGHT

Know the load

POSITION

Load centre /
distribution

LIMITS

Height / attachment /
rating

Read the actual machine plate. No universal capacity.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

If a rating, weight or limit is unknown, stop and check before proceeding.



STUDY & PRACTICE

Stability and surfaces

Articulation changes the shape and swept path of the truck. Allow for the front assembly, rear body and load, not only the wheels. Use the prescribed stacking configuration; a universal straight-wheel rule from another truck type is not appropriate for every articulated manoeuvre.

Look at the route. Damaged floors, wet surfaces, debris, thresholds and unsuitable slopes can change control and support. Report problems and use an approved alternative.

Respect changes. A new attachment, load, platform configuration or route may need a different assessment and additional instruction. Never improvise counterweights or override limits.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

Smooth controls cannot make unsuitable ground or an unsafe configuration safe.



STUDY & PRACTICE

Practical preparation

Demonstrate checks including articulation, plate/load assessment, laden and unladen travel, turns, whole-truck clearance, rack approach, placement and retrieval at agreed heights, free withdrawal and parking. The examiner states the manoeuvre and shunting allowances.

Explain your decisions. Be ready to show why the load/work, route, machine and protection are suitable. If a task cannot be completed safely, stop and explain why.

Practise under supervision. Use agreed equipment, loads, heights and areas. Do not practise emergency situations by creating a real hazard.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

The aim is safe, controlled work - not rushing to finish.



STUDY & PRACTICE

If something goes wrong

Stop safely. Use the taught emergency response for the actual model. Keep people away from an unstable load, damaged machine or other danger. Do not attempt a movement that could worsen the situation.

Report and prevent reuse. Tell the responsible person what happened. Apply the site isolation/tagging procedure: V.O.R. means Vehicle Off Road. A tag does not replace necessary isolation.

Leave repair to authorised people. Do not search for hydraulic leaks with your hands, enter a mechanism or work beneath unsupported equipment. Return to service only after the authorised competent person confirms it is safe.

Know the emergency plan. Identify the alarm, first-aid and rescue contacts before starting. Follow the model-specific overturn/entrapment instructions taught during familiarisation.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

A near miss or small contact still needs reporting.



STUDY & PRACTICE

People and observation

Keep people separate. Follow barriers, marked routes and site access rules. A horn, warning light or sensor does not give right of way.

Look before every movement. Check the direction of travel, side/rear swing and the movement path. Stop if the view or clearance is inadequate. Use a trained banksman only under the agreed safe system.

LOOK

All around

PLAN

Clear route

MOVE

Observe continuously

Stop whenever the view or clearance is inadequate.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

If agreed communication or sight of a required banksman is lost, stop immediately.



STUDY & PRACTICE

Travel under control

Use the required low travel position, adequate ground clearance and specified tilt where fitted. Observe the direction of travel and recheck before changing direction. Make controlled turns with room for articulation and rear/load swing. If someone enters a pinch or swept-path area, stop immediately.

Adjust to conditions. Follow site speed rules and slow enough for visibility, load, surface and stopping distance. Approach doors, junctions and blind corners cautiously.

New direction, new observation. Do not rely on an earlier check. Stop before a change that the machine instructions require to be made stationary. Never operate controls while distracted.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

Look in the direction you are moving; stop if you cannot see a safe route.



STUDY & PRACTICE

Parking and charging

Park in the authorised place and set articulation, tilt and forks to the model's prescribed parked configuration. Lower the forks, apply the specified brake/direction-control procedure, switch off and prevent unauthorised use. Leave no obstruction or projecting forks.

Charge safely. Use only the approved battery/charger combination and charging area. Follow the correct isolation and connection sequence. Keep ignition sources away and provide the ventilation required for the battery type.

Do not improvise. Only authorised trained people should service or change batteries. Report damaged connectors, leaking or unusually hot batteries. Follow the site emergency plan for smoke, fire or leakage.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

Park safely before leaving the operating position, even for a short interruption, and remove the key. On keyless machines, log out or secure access as instructed.



STUDY & PRACTICE

Turns, routes and shunts

Keep the route suitable. Check floor condition, doors, corners and any permitted gradients. Outdoor capability depends on the actual model and route.

Re-observe every change. Before each correction, check the new travel direction and swept area. Do not reverse simply because it was clear a moment ago.

During assessment. The examiner sets the shunting allowance for each manoeuvre. Ask before starting if it is unclear. Safety remains more important than trying to avoid a correction.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

Every shunt is a new movement: make a new observation.



STUDY & PRACTICE

Understand articulation

Identify the pivot. Your instructor will show how the front assembly moves relative to the chassis and how steering changes the load path.

Protect the danger area. No person should stand between articulating sections or between the truck and a fixed object. Keep your own limbs inside the operator position.

Allow the full envelope. Check front assembly, rear body, pallet corners and overhead load clearance. A wheel clearing the rack does not mean the truck clears it.

REAR BODY

FRONT / LOAD



Pivot / pinch zone - keep people clear

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

Never let someone help by standing in the articulation gap.



STUDY & PRACTICE

Approach the rack

Plan before turning. Confirm the bay, load, floor and aisle provide the required working clearance. Use the approach method taught for this model.

Position accurately. Articulate under control, checking the whole truck/load path. Stop and make a safe correction when needed rather than rubbing past the rack.

Prepare the lift. Secure the truck as instructed and use the prescribed steering/articulation configuration. Check above and to both sides before raising.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

A controlled correction is better than forcing a tight approach.



STUDY & PRACTICE

Place and retrieve

Align the forks. Centre and level them for the pallet openings, with suitable spacing and engagement. Avoid rubbing on entry.

Place. Lift and position smoothly, lower onto the intended supports and confirm stability before releasing. Ensure free fork withdrawal.

Retrieve. Check pallet condition, engage correctly, lift clear of supports and withdraw without catching. Re-establish the prescribed travel configuration before leaving the rack.

LITTLE CODY'S REMINDER

Articulation is for controlled positioning, not dragging a pallet sideways.

