



# Dockboards & Dockplates

How to select the correct board  
or plate for your application



# Dockboards vs. Dockplates



## DOCKBOARDS

- Provide higher capacities
- Have curbs
- Lift loops or chains are used as a lifting device
- Primarily used for fork trucks
- Made of steel or aluminum



## DOCKPLATES

- Have lower capacities
- Do not have curbs
- Typically used for pallet jacks, dollies or carts
- Nylon Straps or chains are used as a lifting device
- Made of steel or aluminum

To select the proper product  
find out what equipment is  
being used



Once the equipment is determine  
the **capacity** can calculated

$$\text{Weight} + \text{Load} \times .9 = \text{Capacity}$$

Example:



Forklift weighs

11,000 lbs.

+

Max Load

4,000 lbs.

X .9

Required Dockboard Capacity = 13,500 lbs.

# Length:

Is determined by the maximum amount of height difference between the dock height and the floor height of the trailer(s) being serviced.



Example:

Truck height **54"** - Dock height **48"** = **+6"** max height difference

**+6"** is the max height difference

# TABLE FOR DETERMINING DOCKBOARD LENGTH

## **FORK LIFT TRUCKS: 11° BEND GRADE (19%)**

MAX HEIGHT DIFFERENCE (INCHES)	4	5	6	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	12	13	14	15	16
BOARD LENGTH (INCHES)	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96

*Lengths shown include 11" lip. If refrigerator trucks are used, must specify a 14" lip.*

## **WALKIE TRUCKS / PALLET JACK: 8% BEND GRADE (14%)**

MAX HEIGHT DIFFERENCE (INCHES)	3	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	6	7	8	8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	12
BOARD LENGTH (INCHES)	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96

**Example:** 6" max height difference = **a 42" long board for fork trucks would fit the application** (max grade of 19%).



# If truck bed height is **LOWER** than dock height?

THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS:

**OPTION 1: The dockboard\* or dockplate must be used in reverse.  
(meaning the board/plate will be in the truck and the  
lip is on the dock)**

**-OR-**

**OPTION 2: Raise the truck bed with wheel risers**



***\*If dockboard is used in reverse, chains must be added instead of lift loops***

# Average Floor Heights of Empty Semi-Trailers and Trucks

Over-the-Road (regular)	48" - 54"
Over-the-Road (heavy duty)	51" - 56"
Refrigerated	50" - 56"
Flat Bed	58" - 60"
City Delivery	42" - 50"
Container on Chassis	52" - 58"
Container on Moving van	32" - 42"



# Width:

Copperloy recommends a minimum of 60" wide dockboards for lift trucks and 54" wide dockboards for pallet truck use.



**\*\*\* Remember:** *Safety curbs take up to 6" to 8" of usable space depending on the board.*

# Comparison of boards and plates

	Steel Treadplate	Aluminum treadplate	Steel Curbs	Aluminum Curbs	Lifting Loops (optional)	Lifting chains	Lifting Chains	Nylon Lift Straps	1k-14k capacity	10k-15k capacity	15k + capacity	11" lip length
<b>Steel Dockboard with welded curbs (STR)</b>	X		X		X	X					X	X
<b>Aluminum Dockboard with bolt on Steel curbs (ABC)</b>		X	X			X				X		X
<b>Steel Dockplates (SR)</b>	X						X		X			X
<b>Aluminum Dockboard with welded aluminum curbs (ATR)</b>		X		X		X				X		X
<b>Aluminum dockplates (LP, TLP)</b>		X						X	X			X



**Any questions  
please call  
800-321-4968**

