



**THOMPSON & JOHNSON**  
EQUIPMENT CO., INC.

**Think Safe - Be Safe**

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## Are you using Forklift Extensions?



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT OUR  
TRAINING SPECIALIST:

[DAVE BENNETT](#)

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PRETTY MUCH MANY OF US USE THEM. BUT, WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM OTHER THAN THE FACT THEY MAKE OUR ORIGINAL FORKS LONGER. FIRST OFF, THEY CANNOT BE HOMEMADE. OSHA FROWNS UPON ANYTHING HOMEMADE. THEY MUST MEET ANSI STANDARDS (AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD INSTITUTE) IN THEIR CONSTRUCTION. ANSI STATES THAT THE FORK EXTENSIONS MUST BE STAMPED WITH THE INDIVIDUAL LOAD RATINGS AND THE SUPPORTING FOR SIZE.

THE FORKS CAN'T BE MORE THAN 1.5 TIMES THE LENGTH OF THE SUPPORTING FORK BLADE. EXAMPLE; IF YOU HAVE 48" FORKS ON YOUR LIFT YOUR EXTENSIONS CANNOT BE LONGER THAN 72". OSHA COMPLIANCE OFFICERS WILL CITE YOU FOR A VIOLATION IF THEY SEE THEM ON YOUR LIFT AND THEY ARE NOT RATED ON THE YOUR NAMEPLATE OR CAPACITY TAG. THE WEIGHT OF EACH EXTENSION COULD BE ANYWHERE FROM 75 TO 100 LBS. ALONG WITH AN ADDITIONALLY LONGER LOAD CENTER THAT WILL COME INTO PLAY WITH LONGER EXTENSIONS, WELL THAT MEANS YOUR FORKLIFT WILL NO LONGER PICK UP AS MUCH WEIGHT AND YOUR TRUCKS CAPACITY PLATE NEEDS TO SHOW THAT WEIGHT REDUCTION AND ONLY THE FACTORY, THRU THE DEALER , CAN CHANGE THE TAG.

USING EXTENSIONS MAY MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER, BUT YOU HAVE TO HAVE THE RIGHT ONES AND CHANGE YOUR TAG OR FACE AN OSHA VIOLATION.

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ON THIS OR ANY TOPIC RELATING TO SAFETY WITH YOUR FORKLIFT, GIVE OUR RESIDENT EXPERT DAVE BENNETT A CALL OR SIMPLY FILL OUT A REQUEST FORM BY CLICKING [HERE](#).

