

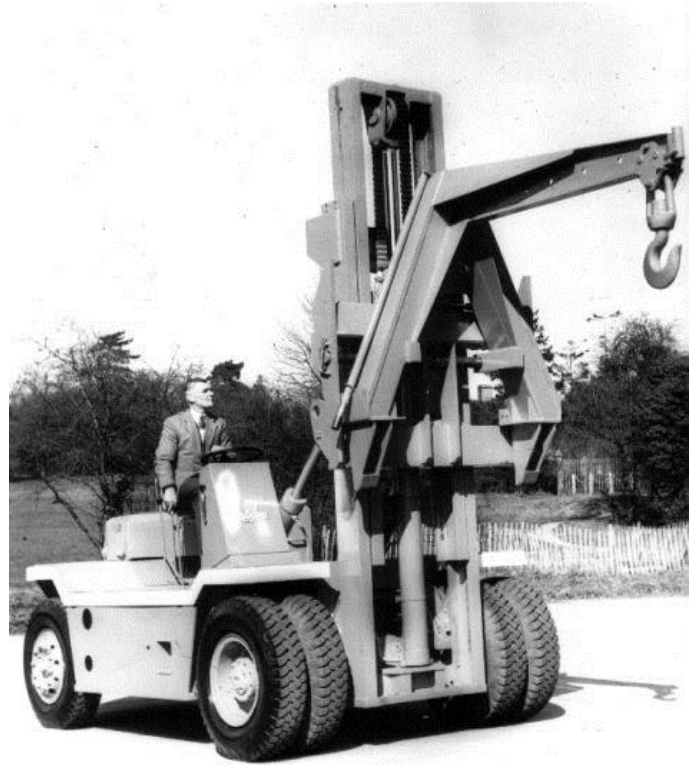


DEFIANT range of fork lift trucks. Part 1.

The SD Freightlifter fork lift truck was in production for 10 years from 1952 and gained a reputation for rugged and reliable service. The range was re-designed commencing in 1962 with three basic models. These initially were termed SD Freightlifter Defiant fork lift trucks but were later simply called SD Defiants.

They followed the Freightlifter practice by being designated according to their wheelbase in inches. The Model 96/15 could lift 15,000 lbs at 24 ins centres from the fork face, and the Model 96/18 lifted 18,000 lbs. The Model 118 had a capacity of 12 tons.

Options for the transmission were a manual gearbox providing four speeds forward and reverse, a torque converter giving three speeds forward and reverse, or a power operated torque converter.



Among the most obvious differences from the earlier models was the absence of the overhead tilt frame, and the reduction in the overhang from the counterbalance weight. All three models were powered by Perkins 6-354 diesel engines.

Here the truck is shown with a crane attachment.

The dimensions for the range are shown below.

Model Freightlifter Defiant	O/All Length	O/All Width	Wheel-Base	Capacity lbs.	Centres	Capacity Tons
96/15	152"	90"	96"	15,000	24"	6.69
96/18	152"	90"	96"	18,000	24"	8.03
118/12T	180"	96"	118"	26,880	24"	12.00



DEFIANT range of fork lift trucks. **Part 2**

Unlike the Freightlifter the Defiant range was extended far beyond the range of the three Freightlifter fork lift trucks. Whilst still marketed under the Freightlifter 'Defiant' nomenclature. Trucks with wheelbases of 72", 80", 87" & 130" were developed with lifting capacities from 8,000 lbs. up to 26,000 lbs.

Some time after 1966 the Freightlifter designation was dropped and the trucks were re-branded as SD Defiant fork lift trucks. The various models were designated DT 4 etc with the number indicating the lifting capacity of the truck in thousands of lbs. The Defiant range eventually numbered 13 different models.

Although it doesn't denote the order in which the trucks were developed, for ease of description these will be described in ascending order of capacity.

The smallest of the range were the DT 4, the DT 5 and the DT 6. These trucks were powered by a Perkins 4.203 four cylinder 3.33 litre diesel engine, and equipped with torque converter transmission requiring no manual clutch or gear-change.



A Defiant 4.

[Photo: The late Derrick Bennett]

This range was also available with full hydrostatic transmission giving two pedal control. These trucks were designated DH 4, DH 5 and DH 6.



A Defiant 6.

The DT 8 utilised a 72 ins wheelbase and was available with either a Perkins 4.236 four cylinder 3.86 litre diesel engine or a Ford 2701E four cylinder 3.966 litre diesel engine. Alternatively an L.P. Gas engine or a petrol engine could be specified. Torque Converter transmission was used.

The standard truck was 69 ins. wide but by utilising only single wheels on the driving axle a compact version Model DT 8-C was available at 54 ins. wide.

The photograph below shows a Defiant 8 at work at a Timber Merchants.

