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FORKLIFT & TRAFFIC CONGESTION RISK CHECKLIST

1 Forklift Utilization

- Are forklifts used for short-distance repositioning?
- Are forklifts frequently called for minor moves?
- Do operators wait for forklift availability?
- Are forklifts performing non-value-added transfers?
- Is lift equipment shared across multiple departments?

2 Congestion Points

- Where do forklifts queue during peak production?
- Are aisles blocked during loading/unloading?
- Do forklifts cross primary production flow paths?
- Are intersections blind or obstructed?
- Are staging areas encroaching into traffic lanes?

3 Idle Time & Labor Impact

- How often do operators wait for lift support?
- Average wait time (minutes)?

- Does congestion increase during shift change?
- Are downstream stations delayed due to traffic?

Calculate:

Total operator idle minutes per shift: _____

Annual labor cost tied to forklift delay: _____

4 Safety Risk Exposure

- Near-miss incidents in last 12 months?
- Forklift/pedestrian crossover areas?
- Temporary workarounds during congestion?
- Product manually pushed when forklift unavailable?
- Aisle widths compliant with turning radius?

5 Layout & Flow Alignment

- Are forklift paths aligned with production flow?
- Is product staged efficiently before pickup?
- Are transfer zones clearly defined?
- Could omnidirectional transfer reduce forklift dependency?
- Are short moves handled by mechanical assist instead?

6 Equipment Dependency

- Is forklift usage masking poor layout design?
- Are frequent micro-moves required between stations?
- Could gravity or transfer systems eliminate lift demand?
- Is lift traffic interfering with assembly or inspection?

7 Traffic Optimization Opportunities

- Separate pedestrian lanes available?
- Dedicated forklift-only zones defined?
- Staging zones optimized for flow?

- Could layout reorientation reduce crossings?
- Are material transfers centralized or scattered?

Final Diagnostic Questions

- How many forklift moves per shift are avoidable?
- Where is the highest traffic density point?
- What percentage of forklift use is reactive?
- Would transfer systems reduce traffic volume?