



Aerial Lifts and Scissor Lifts

Applicable OSHA Compliance Information:

- CFR 29 -1915.67 :
Vehicle-mounted elevating and rotating work platforms.
- 29 CFR 1926.453 :
Aerial lifts

Safety / Compliance Tips

Aerial Lifts

The major causes of injuries and fatalities involving aerial lifts are falls, electrocutions, and collapses or tip-overs. Aerial devices include boom-supported aerial platforms, such as cherry pickers or bucket trucks, aerial ladders and vertical towers (OSHA regulates scissor lifts as mobile scaffolds, not as aerial devices).

Safe work practices for aerial lifts include:

- Ensure that workers who operate aerial lifts are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment. Test the controls and inspect the aerial lift before use each day. Make sure that all controls are clearly marked as to their function.
- Never override hydraulic, mechanical or electrical safety devices. Maintain and operate aerial lifts according to the manufacturer's instructions. Always stand firmly on the basket floor. Do not sit or climb on the edge or rails of the basket. Never use planks, boxes or other items inside the basket to extend your reach.
- Ensure that all wheels of an elevated lift are on a solid base. Use outriggers, if provided. Set the brakes and use wheel chocks when on an incline. Do not exceed the load limits of the equipment. Allow for the combined weight of the worker(s), tools and materials.
- De-energize and lockout/tagout aerial lifts before performing any maintenance or repairs.

The recommendations, observation, or material provided by The American Equity Underwriters, Inc., are to assist you in your loss control activities. They cover only conditions and practices observed and considered at the time of contact. No responsibility is assumed for the discovery and elimination of hazards, which could possibly cause accidents or damage. Compliance with any submitted recommendations in no way guarantees the fulfillment of your obligations as may be required by local, state or federal laws.

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Safety / Compliance Tips (Cont'd)

Working near Power Lines

Maintain a minimum clearance of at least 10 feet away from the nearest overhead line. In addition, any conductive object that can be contacted must be maintained at least 10 feet from overhead lines. Conductive objects could be wires, transformers, ducts, pipes or other equipment. Always treat overhead lines as energized, even if they are down or appear to be insulated. Never lose awareness of the overhead hazard.

Struck-by, Crushed-by, or Caught-in Hazards

Establish and clearly mark a danger zone around the aerial lift support vehicle. Never move the equipment with workers in the elevated platform unless the equipment has been specifically designed for this type of operation. Do not allow workers to position themselves between overhead hazards, such as joists and beams, and the rails of the basket. If the basket moves, the worker(s) could become trapped and crushed between the rails and the overhead object.

Fall Protection

Workers working from aerial lifts are required to wear fall protection equipment. Do not allow workers to belt off to an adjacent pole, structure or equipment while working from an aerial lift. Use a body harness or positioning device with a lanyard attached to the boom or basket to prevent the worker from being ejected or pulled from the basket.

Scissor lifts

Scissor lifts, including those with platforms that extend beyond the equipment's wheelbase, do not fall within the ANSI definition of aerial lifts. Therefore, scissor lifts are not considered to be a type of aerial lift. While there are no OSHA provisions that specifically address scissor lifts, they do meet the definition of a scaffold.

[OSHA Standard Interpretation letter. (2002, August 1), ANSI/SIA A92.3, A92.5, and A92.6]

- Workers must be trained on how to operate a scissor lift before being used.
- The scissor lift must be inspected before use each day.
- Never stand on the handrail or lean excessive over the side.
- Be aware of pinch points between the scissor handrail and close by objects.
- Before moving with workers inside the scissor lift:
 - The surface on which the scaffold is being moved must be within 3 degrees of level and free of pits, holes, and obstructions (such as overhead, electrical, hazardous atmospheres).
 - The height to base width ratio of the scaffold during movement is two to one or less, unless the scaffold is designed and constructed to meet or exceed nationally recognized stability test requirements. [ANSI/SIA A92.5 and A92.6]
- Travel speed should be limited by the workplace conditions (such as holes in the deck or unlevel surfaces).
- Operator controls should be tested.
- Load limits should not be exceeded.
- Fall protection equipment use for workers using the scissor lift is covered by the manufacturer's recommendations. Check the Operators Manual or the specific manufacturer regarding fall protection equipment needs.

Note: Some information posted above was taken from the OSHA web site



*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT THE AEU LOSS CONTROL STAFF 866-AEU-8754*

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