



Aerial and Scissor Lifts

A. Hazard

Aerial and scissor lifts are used in many industries including shipbuilding. They provide a flexible work platform that can be used to place a worker at an elevated work site quickly and safely. However, many hazards are created with the use of this equipment, including ejection or falling from the equipment, possible electrical hazards when working near electrical lines and equipment failure due to overloading.

B. Regulations & Requirements

1. When employees will operate aerial or scissor lifts, OSHA and NNS require each employer to establish and implement a written compliance program to comply with:
 - a. 29 CFR 1910.67 or 1926.453 as applicable,
 - b. The manufactures instructions,
 - c. The best management practices of ANSI A92.5 and ANSI A92.6.
2. During the NNS pre-approval process each contractor whose employees will operate aerial or scissor lift equipment, must provide to the NNS Environmental, Health and Safety Department (O27), a copy of its written program. This document must describe the contractor's program for complying with each element of the applicable OSHA standard(s). The contractor shall provide a copy of any changes to the program on an annual basis, such as at the beginning of each year.
3. The written compliance program shall specifically address the following items, in addition to the items already discussed:
 - a. Each contractor owning and/or operating aerial lifts and/or scissor lifts at NNS or supporting off site work by Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News, shall ensure all operators and users of personnel handling equipment are authorized by their employer and meet applicable manufacture and OSHA requirements.
 - b. Personnel handling equipment includes aerial lifts, self-propelled scissor lift, manually-propelled scissor lifts and bucket trucks, and any other type of similar equipment used as a working platform or to position workers to include hoisting mechanisms.
 - c. Mobile equipment used for handling personnel on barges or scows without bumpers shall be securely lashed and used only in attaining proper elevation.
 - d. When it is necessary to drive a lift while on a barge, the platform shall be fully telescoped in and brought to its stowed position. An observer must be used to ensure the travel path is clear of obstructions and debris while the lift is being driven. The observer must be in constant communication with the operator at all times.
 - e. A boom or scissor lift will not be used for any purpose other than positioning working personnel, their tools, and equipment. Where no other means is available and access or exit is needed above ground from the platform



(basket), all fall hazards must be eliminated by positioning the platform as close as possible (within 12 inches) to the transfer surface. Alternatively, fall arrest protection with two lanyards must be provided. In all cases an operator must remain at the basket controls at all times when someone has exited from an elevated basket to another surface.

NOTE: Best management practice at NNS requires a console cover to prevent obstacles from striking or interfering with the operating controls.

4. When personnel or other moving equipment and vehicles are present, special precautions are required. Warnings such as, but not limited to flags, roped off areas, barrier tape, flashing lights, and barricades shall be used and maintained as appropriate.
 - a. The contractor shall also ensure that associated OSHA regulations such as fall protection are addressed either in this program or additional written programs.
 - b. NNS requires scissor lift operators and passengers be tied off to the manufactures approved anchorage points.
 - c. Contractors shall not use Newport News Shipbuilding equipment unless stated in the contract or written memorandum of agreement. The NNS requisitioner shall obtain a letter of indemnity. In the event that a Contractor is authorized to operate NNS equipment, the Contractor shall use the Newport News ODCL. Any discrepant conditions, accident or incidents shall be reported immediately to the Contract Coordinator.

C. Accident and Incident Reporting

1. NNS defines a personnel handling equipment accident and incident as:
 - a. Incident - An event that occurs during the operation of a lift that could have resulted in physical harm to a person or damage property, (near miss). Incidents are the “near misses”.
 - b. Accident - An event that occurs during the operation of a lift that results in physical harm to a person, including first aid or the damage to property.
2. All incidents and accidents must be reported. The Contractor shall ensure the following actions are taken:
 - a. Stop work immediately and secure the site. Do not alter the scene of the accident unless it is necessary for the safety of personnel or property.
 - b. Inform his/her foreman or other appropriate contractor team member.
 - c. Notify the NNS Contractor Coordinator.
 - d. Cooperate with any investigations conducted by NNS.
 - e. Implement “Lessons Learned” to prevent reoccurrence.