

Responsibilities for Industrial Scissor Lift Owners & Users

The content of this document is taken directly from ANSI MH29.1:2012. ANSI MH29.1 is updated on a regular basis and it is recommended to reference that standard in its most current version for the most current information relative to owners, users and operators.

SECTION 6 – Responsibility of Operators

- 6.1 Basic Principles.** Operators shall apply sound principles of safety and good judgment in the application and operation of the scissors lift, with consideration given to its intended use and expected operating environment. Since the operator is in direct control of the industrial scissors lift, conformance with good safety practices is the responsibility of the operator. The operator shall make decisions on the use and operation with due consideration for the fact that his or her own safety as well as the safety of other personnel on or near the scissors lift is dependent on those decisions.
- 6.2 General Training.** Only personnel who have received general instructions regarding the inspection, application and operation of industrial scissors lifts, including recognition and avoidance of hazards associated with their operation, shall operate an industrial scissors lift. Such topics covered shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following issues and requirements:
- (1) A pre-start inspection
 - (2) Responsibilities associated with problems or malfunctions affecting the operation of the industrial scissors lift
 - (3) Factors affecting stability
 - (4) The purpose of placards and decals
 - (5) Workplace inspection
 - (6) Safety rules and regulations
 - (7) Authorization to operate
 - (8) Operator warnings and instructions
 - (9) Actual operation of the industrial scissors lift. Under the direction of a qualified person, the trainee shall operate the industrial scissors lift for a sufficient period of time to demonstrate proficiency in actual operation of the industrial scissors lift.
- 6.3 Prestart Inspection.** Before use each day or at the beginning of each shift, the industrial scissors lift shall be given a visual inspection and functional test including but not limited to the following:
- (1) Operating and emergency controls
 - (2) Safety devices
 - (3) Air or hydraulic system leaks
 - (4) Electrical cables and wiring harness
 - (5) Loose or missing parts
 - (6) Wheels and casters
 - (7) Nameplates, precautionary and instructional markings and/or labeling
 - (8) Guardrail system
 - (9) Items specified by the manufacturer
- 6.4 Problem or Malfunctions.** Any problems or malfunctions that affect the safety of operations shall be repaired prior to the use of the industrial scissors lift.
- 6.5 Before Operations.** The operator shall:
- (1) Read and understand the manufacturer's operating instruction(s) and user's safety rules or have them explained
 - (2) Understand all labels, warnings, and instructions displayed on the industrial scissors lift or have them explained

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6.6 Workplace Inspections. Before the industrial scissors lift is used and during use, the operator shall check the area in which the industrial scissors lift is to be used for possible hazards such as, but not limited to:

- (1) Bumps, floor obstructions and uneven surfaces
- (2) Overhead obstructions and electrical hazards
- (3) Presence of unauthorized persons
- (4) Other possible unsafe conditions as noted in the operating manual.

6.7 Operator Warnings and Instructions. The operator shall ensure the operation of the industrial scissors lift is in compliance with the following:

- (1) **Slope.** The industrial scissors lift shall only be operated on flat and level surfaces.
- (2) **Guardrail system.** Guardrails shall be installed and positioned, and access gates or openings shall be secured per the manufacturer's instructions.
- (3) **Distribution of load.** The load and its distribution on the platform and any platform extension(s) shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's rated capacity for that specific configuration.
- (4) **Maintaining overhead clearance.** The operator shall ensure that adequate clearance is maintained from overhead obstructions and energized electrical conductors and parts.
- (5) **Point of Operation.** The operator shall not place any part of their body under the platform.
- (6) **Personnel footing.** Personnel shall maintain firm footing on dock lifts and work access lifts while working thereon. Climbing by occupants on the guardrail system is prohibited. The use of planks, ladders, or any other devices on the platform for achieving additional height is prohibited.
- (7) **Precaution for moving equipment.** When other moving equipment or vehicles are present, special precautions shall be taken to comply with the safety standards established for the workplace.
- (8) **Reporting problems or malfunctions.** The operator shall immediately report to a supervisor any problem(s) or malfunction(s) that become evident during operation. The operator shall ensure all problems and malfunctions that affect the safety of operations are repaired prior to continued use.
- (9) **Capacity limitation.** Rated capacity shall not be exceeded when loads are transferred to the platform at any level.
- (10) **Work area.** The operator shall ensure the area surrounding the industrial scissors lift is clear of personnel and equipment before lowering the platform.
- (11) **Battery charging.** Batteries shall be charged in strict accordance with the lift manufacturer's instructions.
- (12) **Securing the industrial scissors lift.** The operator shall comply with the means and procedures provided to protect against use by an unauthorized person(s).
- (13) **Altering safety devices.** Safety devices shall not be altered or disabled.
- (14) **Modifications.** Modifications or alterations of an industrial scissors lift or the fabrication and attaching of frameworks or the mounting of attachments for holding tools or materials onto the platform or the guardrail system shall only be accomplished with prior written permission of the manufacturer.
- (15) **Assistance to the operator.** If an operator encounters any suspected malfunction or any hazard or potentially unsafe condition relating to capacity, intended use or safe operation the operator shall cease operation of the industrial scissors lift and request further instruction from the owner/user.
- (16) **Problems or malfunctions.** Any problem(s) or malfunction(s) that affect the safety of operations shall be repaired prior to the use of the industrial scissors lift.

