

AERIAL LIFTS AND PLATFORMS

INTRODUCTION

This standard applies to all self-propelled elevating work platforms and man baskets. A work platform is a personnel-carrying component of a device used to elevate employees so they may perform their assigned tasks. This standard is to outline general practices and serve as a guide for employees. Employees must refer to the manufacturer operating and maintenance manuals for specific requirements.

Each lift must have an operating/maintenance manual with the equipment at all times.

Refer to Working at Heights standard.

OPERATIONS

Operators of aerial work platforms must be trained, qualified and capable of safely operating the equipment.

All aerial work platforms must be inspected by the operator prior to being used. Inspections are to be documented. Any malfunction or defect that could cause a safety problem must be corrected before the aerial work platform is used.

Self-propelled work-platform load ratings must never be exceeded. The platform should never substitute for a crane.

Employees shall maintain firm footing on the platform and must wear approved fall protection equipment at all times. The use of ladders and planks is prohibited.

Each platform shall have anchorage points for fall protection equipment for each employee.

All stepping, standing, and working surfaces must be skid resistant.

Altering, modifying and disabling safety devices is prohibited. The manufacturer, in writing, must approve any modifications to the lift. Refer to Change Management standard.

Aerial lift platforms are prohibited from operating within 10 feet of energized 50kV and below power lines. Voltages above 50kV require a distance of 10 feet plus 0.4 inches for every kilovolt over 50kV (e.g., 100kV = 12 feet). Signs must be installed in all aerial lift platforms to inform the operator of this requirement.

All job sites must be evaluated for hazards prior to starting. Hazards such as uneven surfaces, ditches, power lines, and overhead obstructions must be considered.

Barricades must be erected around the work area to protect others below from falling objects. In addition to barricades, toolboxes and tie-offs must be in place to prevent tools and equipment from falling.

The Area Manager and the HSE Manager must approve the following work before any aerial lift platform can be used.

- Work within 15 feet of a powerline.
- Work within any fenced substation.
- Work within any area where exposed buses are present.
- Work near piping, flues or ducts that contain hazardous materials

The work platform must have either a fully enclosed basket or a standard handrail system including a top rail, mid rail, and a toe board.

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The lift shall have primary and secondary controls where the secondary controls are easily accessed at ground level and can override the platform controls.

The lift shall have an emergency stop easily accessed by the operator.

LABELING

Must have labels indicating special warnings, cautions, or restrictions necessary for safe operation at the operator stations.

The rated work load must be clearly indicated at the operator stations.

The maximum platform height and travel must be indicated at the operator stations.

The platform and its enclosure must be labeled as electrically insulated or non-insulated complete with the associated ratings.

The different configurations in which the platform can be used must be indicated at the operator stations.

LOAD RATINGS

Either single or multiple ratings can be used. These must be clearly marked at the operator stations for all loading configurations.

Where load ratings are dependent on a boom angle, a means to measure this angle from the work platform must be provided.

MAINTENANCE

Each lift must be maintained in accordance with the specifications outlined in the equipment manuals.

Employees shall be provided training on preventive maintenance and inspection requirements from the manufacturer or manufacturer's representative.

Monthly preventive maintenance inspections must be performed.

All lifts must be re-certified annually. Those lifts requiring electrical insulating properties must undergo a dielectric test. The annual certification tag must be attached to the equipment for the duration of the certification period.

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