

# SCISSOR LIFTS

## IDENTIFY

Scissor lifts are very common on construction worksites. These elevated work platforms will allow a worker to elevate their working surface where using a ladder or building a scaffold are not practical solutions.

## COMMUNICATE AND CONTROL

Scissor lifts are designed to raise and lower in a single path, unlike other aerial lifts that allow workers to move positions laterally while elevated.

These lifts are equipped with surrounding guardrails with a single-entry point at the back of the machine. This entry point may be a chain or latching door, depending on the size of the machine. Some rough terrain scissor lifts that are used outside, will have a latch door on the side of the machine. These are a more heavy-duty lift.

While workers are inside the guardrails, fall arrest harnesses should still be worn. The lanyards should be attached to the identified anchor points. Anchoring to a guardrail seems more convenient, but they are not designed to take the shock load if a worker falls.



Employers should ensure that all scissor lifts are used in accordance with the manufacturer guidelines. The lift should not be overloaded, as this will effect the stability of the machine. Some lifts will have outrigger arms that lift the wheels off the surface. These should be used to ensure the scissor lift is level and stabilized.

Scissor lifts are not designed to be a hoist for other materials or equipment. They are only designed to raise the working platform of the worker(s).

## FACTS AND TIPS

As outlined in the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Regulation Part 28.39(3), a fall arrest system may not be required if a worker remains in the confines of the guardrails and the lift is being raised or lowered. However, some sites or even companies may be stricter than this minimum standard, and require 100 per cent tie-off while in any elevating work platform.

All scissor lifts should be inspected pre-use. A documented inspection checklist can include the following:

- Batteries
- Guardrails
- Elevates/descends
- Warning lights (if equipped)
- Control panel
- Brakes working
- Chain/door latch
- Operator's manual

All workers using or operating a scissor lift should receive training prior to its use. The training should include the inspection, operation, and emergency procedures of the lift.

# THE QUIZ

1. All scissor lifts require a pre-use inspection:  
TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_
2. Scissor lifts are designed to hoist heavy materials:  
TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which of these should be inspected prior to use:
  - a) Control panel
  - b) Batteries
  - c) Guardrails
  - d) All of the above
4. Any operator of a scissor lift must be trained and prove competency:  
TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which is an appropriate spot to attach the lanyard to from the fall arrest harness:
  - a) Top guardrail
  - b) Middle guardrail
  - c) Identified anchor point
6. According to the WSH Regulation Part 28, what is the requirement to wear fall arrest while working in a scissor lift?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the policy for fall arrest in scissor lifts on your current site, or what does your company safe work procedure state?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. TRUE; 2. FALSE; 3. d; 4. TRUE; 5. c; 6. A fall arrest system may not be required if a worker remains in the confines of the guardrails and the lift is being raised or lowered; 7. Site specific or company specific reference

ANSWERS: