



GOALS

This safety session teaches employees to:

- Understand the hazards associated with using scissor lifts.
- Know how to use scissor lifts safely.
- Be familiar with inspection protocols.

Applicable Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.68 (Manlifts), 29 CFR 1926.451 (General Requirements for Scaffolds), and 1926.452(w) (Mobile Scaffolds).



1. Scissor lifts are very useful devices with many applications.

- They allow easy elevation to the desired work height.
- They provide a stable platform from which to work.
- They can be moved around the worksite.

2. Scissor lifts have three main sections.

- The undercarriage, which houses the propulsion and wheels, serves as the base for the scissor mechanism.
- Some scissor lifts are equipped with counterbalance weights or legs that extend to provide greater stability when the platform is elevated.
- The next section includes the scissors structure and the lifting mechanism, usually hydraulic.
- On top is the work platform with guardrails and a gate for entry.
- Controls are found in both the bottom and top sections of the lift.

3. Scissor lifts are quite safe, but there are hazards to watch out for.

- Lifts must be kept at a safe distance from overhead electrical wires or other structures that might pose a hazard.
- It is important to know the voltage of any wires to determine how far away the lift must be to ensure safety.
- Survey the route to be traveled before moving the equipment.
- Lifts can tip over if they are not situated on a stable, level surface.
- There should be no soft spots, drop offs, or debris in the area.
- Signs should be posted in the operating area to warn other workers or vehicles of the location of the lift.
- Workers near scissor lifts can be crushed between the lift and an adjacent building.

4. Always inspect the worksite and equipment before using it—every time.

- Before putting a lift in position, both the surface and overhead areas of the worksite should be inspected for any hazards.
- All workers should be wearing hard hats and any required personal fall protection gear.
— OSHA does not require safety harnesses and lanyards for scissor lifts—regulation is under the scaffolding standards.



- Some platforms are so large that using fall protection with lanyards would present a tripping hazard.
- Other platforms are equipped with anchorages so that personal fall protection with lanyards may be attached there.
- Lanyards should never be attached to guardrails.
- All controls on the lift should be inspected and tested before each use to be sure they are operating correctly.
- Guardrails and gates should be checked as well.

5. There are safe work practices for using a scissor lift.

- The platform should not be loaded beyond its rated capacity—extra weight can make the equipment top heavy and cause it to tip over.
- Workers should be trained how to operate both the electronic controls and any manual emergency backup systems.
- Workers should never climb on any object or ladder to gain greater height.
- Workers should not sit or climb on the guardrails.
- They should not climb from the platform to an adjacent building.
- The equipment should not be operated in windy or extreme weather conditions.
- The equipment should never be moved without consent of the workers in the aerial platform.
- The platform should never be attached to an adjacent structure.
- Because various types of equipment have different features, special training should be given for any new or rented lifts.



DISCUSSION POINTS:

Talk with your trainees about the use of scissor lifts in your operations. Instruct them about whether your safety rules require them to tie off while they are working aloft. If you work with more than one type of lift, explain any differences that apply.



CONCLUSION:

- Scissor lifts are relatively safe places to work, but a fall is a fall.
- Following safety rules is necessary to prevent a serious accident.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Have your employees take the Scissor Lifts quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can see how well they understand the rules for safe operation or whether they need to review this important topic again soon.



SCISSOR LIFTS QUIZ

- 1. Scissor lifts are very useful devices because they can be moved around the workplace and adjusted to the desired work height.**
a. True b. False
- 2. The main sections of a scissor lift are the undercarriage, the scissor structure, and the work platform.**
a. True b. False
- 3. Scissor lifts are very stable and can't tip over.**
a. True b. False
- 4. Scissor lifts must be kept at a safe distance from overhead electrical wires.**
a. True b. False
- 5. The equipment should be inspected once a week.**
a. True b. False
- 6. The guardrails can be used for climbing to help you reach something.**
a. True b. False
- 7. Workers should be trained how to operate both the electronic controls and any manual emergency backup systems.**
a. True b. False
- 8. A scissor lift is so safe it can be operated in any weather conditions.**
a. True b. False
- 9. Workers should always wear hard hats and any required personal fall protection gear.**
a. True b. False
- 10. All scissor lifts operate in exactly the same way.**
a. True b. False

When you have completed this quiz, turn it in to your supervisor.

Name: _____

Date: _____



ANSWERS TO SCISSOR LIFTS QUIZ

1. a. True.
2. a. True.
3. b. False. The platform should not be loaded beyond its rated capacity—extra weight can cause it to tip over.
4. a. True.
5. b. False. Always inspect the worksite and equipment before using it—every time.
6. b. False. Workers should not sit or climb on the guardrails.
7. a. True.
8. b. False. The equipment should not be operated in windy or extreme weather conditions.
9. a. True.
10. b. False. Because various types of equipment have different features, special training should be given for any new or rented lifts.