

Guidance Document for Walking Scissor Lifts

Potential Risk:

1. Scissor lift platforms that are narrow enough to enable them to drive through doors and openings with the fixed handrails in place, allow an opportunity for an operator to remain standing or crouching on the platform. The operator may become trapped between the handrails and the door frame. This may cause structural damage to the scissor lift or the building structure.
2. The scissor lift can be driven up/down a ramp or onto a delivery vehicle/trailer with an operator standing in the lowered platform. The scissor lift can be driven off the edge, the ramp can give way or the scissor lift can bottom out at the apex of the two different angle's causing the chassis to pivot, and loose traction. The operator could be injured if the scissor lift tips or the operator loses control.
3. Driving into or out of a confined space (for example a shipping container or delivery vehicle), can cause temporary blindness with the operator moving from visible light to the darkened void.

Observation:

Operating a scissor lift in the scenarios noted above is common and requires a site survey of the area to be completed before entering the space and cannot be done from the platform. Risk analysis should be undertaken to identify the hazards associated with either controlling the driving from within the platform, or walking beside the platform using the extended cable connected to the platform control box.

Walking alongside whilst driving the scissor lift with the platform controls, must be done only if it does not endanger the operator or bystanders. Manufacturer's operating instructions with either generic or specific instructions of Walking the Scissor, detailing the risks and hazards of driving through openings, needs to be read and understood. A competent person should identify all hazards before attempting such a maneuver and must exercise the safest option.

Control Measures:

A scissor lift should only be operated from outside the platform using the upper control box in the following conditions:

- When performing certain maintenance or testing, the guardrails are folded or there is a risk of injury such as overhead obstructions or during loading/unloading, etc.
- If upon review, a Risk Assessment has determined that operating from the platform is not possible or practical for operators, mechanics and drivers.


To minimize the risk of being injured while walking with a scissor lift the below practices should be considered.

Before and during travelling, the operator shall:

- a. **REFER** to the manufacturer's operating manual and **COMPLY** with any manufacturer's requirements for walking the scissor lift;
- b. **MAINTAIN A CLEAR VIEW** of the support surface and route of travel;



- c. **ENSURE** the cable is at least 1600mm between the control box and plug;
- d. **ENSURE** the operator stands at least 1000mm from the wheels;
- e. **NOT OPERATE** with the control box secured to the machine; hold the control box in your hands/arms;
- f. **ENSURE** you are holding the control box in the same direction as it is mounted on the platform before activating the travel control lever as it is easy to become confused about which way the machine will move when you push the travel control lever;

- g. **ALWAYS** select the  or slowest speed position on the Torque/Speed Select Toggle Switch on the control box when walking a lift, loading or unloading from the ground;
- h. **LIMIT TRAVEL SPEED** according to conditions, including the condition of the support surface, congestion, visibility, slope, location of persons and other factors;
- i. **STAND CLEAR** from the scissor lift, as far away as the cable will allow, and out of the direction of travel while walking with the controls in hand;
- j. **NOT** drive the scissor lift towards yourself;
- k. **ENSURE** that the control box with the cable does not become entangled with the scissor lift or any surrounding objects;
- l. **ALLOW** for the distance the work platform moves or travels when controls are released;
- m. **ENSURE** that persons in the work site area are aware of the movement of the scissor lift to prevent personal injury. It is recommended that the horn is used when travelling through doorways where vision is limited; use a spotter if needed;
- n. **MAINTAIN A SAFE DISTANCE** from obstacles, debris, drop offs, holes, depressions, ramps and other hazards; and
- o. **Seek assistance if in doubt.**

