

## **Aerial Lifts**

### **Additional Resources:**

- [OSHA QuickCard™ \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Complete OSHA Standard](#)

Aerial lifts, powered or manual, include, but are not limited to, the following types of vehicle mounted aerial devices used to elevate personnel to jobsites above ground: extensible boom platforms, articulating boom platforms, and vertical towers. 1926.453(a)(1)(i) through (v)

When operating aerial lifts, employers must ensure employees are:

- Trained
- Authorized
- Setting brakes and using outriggers
- Not exceeding boom and basket load limits.
- Using personal fall protection when required
- Not using devices such as ladders, stilts, or step stools to raise the employee above the basket. No Standing on the rails!

In addition, manufacturers or the equivalent must certify, in writing, all modifications to aerial lifts. 1926.453(a)(2)

Stand in the basket, not on it. 1926.453(b)(2)(iv)

Attach your body harness and lanyard system to an anchorage point on the boom or basket. Do not tie off to adjacent structures. 1926.453(b)(2)(v)

Do not use ladders in aerial lifts. 1926.453(b)(2)(iv) (ANSI A92.2)

Operators need to make a pre-operation inspection of the aerial lift looking for deficiencies that can prevent the machine from operating safely and that may be in direct conflict with the manufacturer. Operators should also make an inspection of the work area looking for holes, soft areas, drop-offs, utilities, overhead obstructions etc.

When working from an elevated scissors lift (ANSI A92.6 series), a worker need only be protected from falling by a properly designed and maintained guardrail system.

However, if the guardrail system is less than adequate, or the worker leaves the safety of the work platform, an additional fall protection device would be required.

Ensure that the gate and/or chain is properly connected before using the lift.

For all lifts not otherwise specified, each employee shall be protected by the use of a personal fall arrest system or guardrail system. 1926.451(g)(1)(vii) Employers and employees must follow manufacturer specific requirements that may supersede the OSHA standards.