



JACK, LIFT AND HOIST SAFETY

Each year serious injuries and deaths occur in the workplace as a result of unsafe jack, stands, lifts, and hoist use. Although safety responsibility for these devices must be shared between employer and employee, the ultimate responsibility for safety lies with the individual worker. Even where there is close supervision, the worker makes the final decision on how to do the job.

squarely on the lift and not overload the lift’s capacity. The floor under the lift should be free of oil or grease to prevent slipping hazards. Oil levels on hydraulic lifts should be checked periodically and lifts removed from service if there are any indications of malfunctioning.

Many accidents don’t just happen, they’re caused by unsafe work practices or taking chances. Give jacks, stands, lifts, and hoists the high safety priority they deserve.

Jacks

Workers must select a jack with the rated lifting capacity that equals or exceeds the load it will support. Jacks must be placed on a firm, level surface perpendicular to the load in order to work efficiently. If the jack slips out from under a load, workers may not have enough time to get out of the way, so adjustable stands or other substantial support should also be placed underneath the load so that it will not fall if the jack slips or fails. It should be clear to workers, that they should never enter beneath or work under a load that is supported only by jacks. If a jack is bent or defective, it should be tagged and removed from service.

Hoists

Only workers who have been trained in the proper use of hoists should be allowed to operate them. The lifting capacity of the hoist must be clearly marked and visible to the operator and cage-controlled hoists must be equipped with an effective warning devices. Before operation, operators should check that the hoist chains or ropes are of sufficient strength and length to safely lift or otherwise handle the load. On a chain hoist, they should make sure the hook has a safety clip so that if the chain is given slack the hook won’t come loose. The oil level on hydraulic hoists should also be periodically checked. Operators should understand that they are prohibited from carrying loads over people and any hoist malfunction should be reported to their supervisor immediately.

Lifts

Lifts should be marked with the name of the manufacturer, the approval number issued by the Division of Industrial Safety or statement of compliance with ANSI B153.1-1974 (or if manufactured after 8/17/94, compliance with ANSI B153.1-1990), and date of installation. No one should be inside a vehicle that will be lifted and for their safety, workers should stand to one side as the lift operates, making sure the doors, hood, and trunk of the vehicle are closed before the lift. The load should rest