

Scissor Lift JHA

Worked instructional example | Edition v1.0 | October 7, 2026

Planned controls for a fictional task. Replace the assumptions with actual conditions, verify the controls with the crew and obtain required site authorization. No inspections, signatures or approvals have been completed by this example.

Work and worksite

Fictional construction example: one trained, authorized operator uses a battery-electric scissor lift to hand-fasten small identification signs to existing wall brackets inside a commercial building under construction. A designated ground coordinator controls access and supports the planned emergency response. The work uses a verified level, dry slab and small hand tools. All travel in this example takes place with the platform fully lowered in the manufacturer's travel configuration. Drilling, new anchors, heavy or long materials, energized electrical work, platform exit at height, outdoor work, charging, repairs and trailer loading are outside this example.

- Identify the actual make, model, serial number and operator manual. Confirm indoor suitability, reach, rated capacity, extension-deck limits, floor loading, slope limits and travel configuration. Include the operator, tools and signs in the planned load.
- Have the responsible site person verify slab and cover capacity for the actual machine and loading. Survey holes, edges, ramps, debris and wet areas. An apparently smooth floor or an unverified cover is not evidence of adequate support.
- Survey the full travel route and raised work envelope for beams, pipes, doors, services and electrical exposure. Resolve electrical hazards before positioning; an electric drive does not make the lift electrically insulated.
- Separate the work area and travel route from pedestrians and other equipment. Coordinate access, deliveries and neighboring work; keep required exits available.
- Assign the operator, scaffold competent person, ground coordinator and emergency contacts. Verify applicable training, model familiarization, emergency-lowering instructions and an available response if normal lowering fails. These are planned roles, not completed qualifications or inspection records.

Actual records needed

Project, location and revision; make/model/serial number and manual; intended load and support evidence; responsible people and training; emergency plan; inspection findings, open actions, crew review and authorization.

Plan and establish the work area

1. Confirm the task, machine and people

Hazard: Unsuitable reach, excess loading or unfamiliar controls can cause falls, overturning or an ineffective emergency response.

Control: The supervisor and operator match the lift and manual to the planned height, load and indoor conditions. Use trained, authorized personnel with model familiarization. Assign a trained ground coordinator for access control and the manufacturer's emergency-lowering procedure. Plan communications and escalation if lowering cannot be performed safely; do not improvise a rescue by climbing the mechanism.

Verification: Before setup, the supervisor records the equipment identity, manual, load assessment, training basis and responsible people. The operator and ground coordinator explain their emergency actions and confirm how to summon help.

2. Verify the floor, route and work zone

Hazard: A hole, weak cover, edge or slope can destabilize the lift. Passing people and vehicles can be struck or can collide with the machine. Overhead structures can trap the operator.

Control: Obtain confirmation of support capacity for the actual machine and route. Keep the lift on the verified dry, level slab, clear of unprotected holes and edges. Establish barriers and controlled access around the machine and falling-object area. Survey overhead clearance throughout positioning and raising. Resolve electrical exposure and conflicting work before starting.

Verification: The supervisor and operator walk the route before use and after changes. Record the support information, restricted areas, overhead hazards and access arrangements. Keep unverified areas out of use.

Check the reasoning

The task needs suitable equipment and a workable response before anyone is raised. This example's ground-coordinator role is a planning choice, not a universal rule requiring two certified operators.

A floor condition and a traffic arrangement can change even when the machine remains serviceable.

Inspect, position and prepare

3. Inspect the lift and check its functions

Hazard: Damaged rails, a faulty gate, defective controls, tire damage or bypassed safety devices can expose workers to falls, unexpected movement or collapse.

Control: Have a competent person inspect for visible defects before each work shift and after any event that could affect structural integrity. The operator completes the manufacturer's pre-use inspection and function checks in a clear test area, including controls, brakes, guardrails, gate, safety devices and emergency functions as specified. Remove defective equipment from service and report it; do not bypass interlocks or attempt unauthorized repairs.

Verification: Identify the competent person and record actual findings, required checks and defect disposition. Inspection and function-check results must be acceptable before use; a blank form or old sticker does not establish today's condition.

4. Enter the platform and arrange the load

Hazard: An open gate, climbing the rails, overreaching, loose tools or an overloaded extension deck can lead to falls, dropped objects or instability.

Control: Use the designated access with the platform lowered. Keep the complete guardrail system in place and secure the gate. Keep feet on the platform floor; do not use a ladder or materials to gain height. Arrange signs and tools within the platform and relevant capacity limits. Use task-appropriate hand, eye, foot and head protection. Resolve any additional personal fall-protection requirement against the actual manual and site rules, using a compatible system and manufacturer-approved attachment points where required.

Verification: The operator checks access, gate, guardrails, footing, load and extension-deck limits before raising. The supervisor confirms any additional fall-protection arrangement and its response plan; do not improvise an anchor.

5. Travel and position with the platform lowered

Hazard: Restricted visibility, tight clearances or unexpected pedestrians can cause crushing, collision or entry onto unsuitable ground.

Control: For this example, lower the platform fully and use the manufacturer's travel configuration before every move. Follow the permitted route, speed and operating limits. The ground coordinator stays visible and outside the machine's path and pinch points. Stop if the path is obstructed or communication is lost. Position within reach, then secure the machine using its specified stationary operating controls.

Verification: Before movement, the operator confirms a clear route, lowered configuration, load arrangement and agreed signals. Before raising, recheck support, clearance, exclusion area and stationary setup.

Perform the work and shut down

6. Raise and hand-fasten the small signs

Hazard: The operator can be trapped against overhead obstructions or fall while reaching. Tools or signs can strike people below; sharp edges can cut hands.

Control: Raise only inside the verified clear envelope while watching for entrapment points. Keep the exclusion area effective. Work within comfortable reach with feet on the floor; lower and reposition if the work cannot be reached. Secure small tools and materials against falling without creating snag hazards. Handle edges with suitable protection. Stay within the manufacturer's loading and side-force limits; do not use the lift as a hoist or to push the structure.

Verification: The operator checks clearance continuously during movement and reassesses reach at each position. The ground coordinator keeps access controlled. Stop for an obstruction, unexpected movement, person in the zone or any need to lean beyond a safe working position.

7. Lower, park and hand over

Hazard: People or objects beneath the platform and around the scissor mechanism can be crushed. Unsecured equipment can be used without authorization.

Control: Confirm the lowering path and area around the mechanism are clear. Keep everyone out of the scissor mechanism and beneath the platform. Lower, exit by the designated access and park using the manufacturer's shutdown and access-control procedure. Remove tools and signs, report defects and hand over changes. Charging, servicing and recovery require their own instructions and assessment.

Verification: The operator and ground coordinator confirm clearance before lowering. The operator records defects or changed conditions and verifies the parked machine is secured against unauthorized use.

Check the reasoning

Checking the route once does not control changing overhead clearance, reach or people entering below.

Exposure continues during lowering and shutdown; the analysis should cover the end of the job.

Pause and reassess

- Any defect, alarm, failed function check or bypassed safety device.
- Unverified floor support, an uncovered opening, a new obstruction, wet conditions or departure from the approved route.
- Loss of pedestrian separation, communication or the planned ground support.
- Changed overhead clearance, unexpected electrical exposure or conflicting work.
- A different load, reach, machine, task, indoor/outdoor condition or need for elevated travel or platform exit.
- Loss of emergency-lowering capability or the planned response arrangements.

Correct the condition, revise the affected task and controls, brief the crew and obtain required authorization before restarting. Keep unresolved actions visible.

Example decision

A delivery blocks the verified route. Can the operator cross a nearby covered opening?

Pause. A cover's presence does not establish its capacity for this machine. The responsible site person must verify the alternative route, support and interfaces before it is added to the plan. Keep the original restriction until those questions are resolved.

References and source note

Original fictional walkthrough informed by an uploaded aerial-and-scissor-lift template. General reminders were rewritten as task-specific controls and verification actions. The historical template's combined equipment terminology and project staffing instructions are not presented as universal requirements; historical names, approvals and signatures are not reproduced.

OSHA Scaffolding eTool — Scissor Lifts

<https://www.osha.gov/etools/scaffolding/scissor-lifts>

OSHA 29 CFR 1926.451 — General scaffold requirements, including inspections

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.451>

OSHA 29 CFR 1926.452(w) — Mobile scaffolds

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.452>

OSHA 29 CFR 1926.454 — Scaffold training requirements

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.454>

OSHA interpretation, February 23, 2000 — Scissor-lift classification and training

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2000-02-23-1>

OSHA interpretation, November 29, 2005 — Scissor-lift guardrail fall protection

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2005-11-29-0>

References reviewed October 7, 2026. Use the actual equipment manual and site requirements. The historical interpretation letters explain OSHA positions; consult the current standards linked above.

Guided walkthrough and draft builder: <https://www.toddjeromejenkins.com/jha-jsa-examples/scissor-lift-jha>