

Automotive Lift Safety Tips

It is important to remember the risks involved when vehicles are lifted. The following basic safety tips should be reviewed by all automotive lift operators prior to operating a vehicle lift. All operators should also review the Operating Manual for the specific vehicle lift they are using prior to operating the lift.

- **NEVER** disable or override a vehicle lift safety mechanism. It is designed to keep the lift and vehicle from falling should the lift fail.
- **Inspect your lifts daily** – ensure all lifts are in safe working condition and free of defects.
- **NEVER** operate a lift if it malfunctions or if it has broken or damaged parts.
- **NEVER** use the lift to lift anything other than a vehicle.
- **NEVER** overload the lift; understand and follow the manufacturer's load recommendations for the type of lift you are using. **This applies to both Weight and Wheel Base capacities!**
- **ALWAYS** use wheel chocks AND set the parking brake on drive on lifts. **DO NOT** allow rear tires or portion of vehicle to interfere with ramp/chocks and **NEVER** allow the front wheels to hit the front wheel stops.
- Utilize proper vehicle lifting points recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.
 - Be sure the lift supports are secure and make proper contact with vehicle lifting points.
 - Vehicles should be raised high enough to engage the lift safety locking device.
- Pay attention to your surroundings – Your hand and foot placement and the location of others.
- Before driving a vehicle **into or out of** the lift area, make sure it is clear of:
 - Other employees
 - Oil and other debris
 - Tools, cords, or hoses
 - Lift arms and supports
- Repairs and annual inspections should be made by a certified lift specialist.
- Employees using lifts should receive new hire and annual lift training.
- Ensure all items are removed from under the vehicle before lowering the lift.
- The vehicle's center of gravity should be considered:
 - Removing vehicle components may cause a critical shift in the vehicle's center of gravity causing it to fall from the lift.
 - Vehicles with commercial bodies or heavily loaded vehicles may become unstable.
 - Employees should ask the customer and check truck bodies or beds for heavy equipment.
 - Secure vehicles utilizing tie down straps if necessary or if recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

For additional information on Automotive Lift Safety, including a sample written program, please visit <https://vadagsia.com/other-resources/>

PMA Webservice also offers an online training video that can be accessed by registering at <http://webservice.pmagroup.com> and clicking on the Auto Dealerships tab.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - *The information and suggestions presented by PMA Companies in this risk control document are for your consideration in your loss prevention efforts. They are not intended to be complete or definitive in identifying all hazards associated with your business, preventing workplace accidents, or complying with any safety related or other laws or regulations. You are encouraged to alter the information and suggestions to fit the specific hazards of your business and to have your legal counsel review all of your plans and company policies.*