



## KENTUCKY AGC Self Insurers' Fund

### Scissor Lift Safety

#### What Applies in Kentucky

- **Scissor lifts = mobile scaffolds under OSHA Subpart L.** Use the scaffold rules (not aerial-lift rules) unless a manufacturer/site policy adds requirements.
- **Fall protection:** Properly installed **guardrails are acceptable fall protection** on scissor lifts. A full-body harness & lanyard is not required unless: guardrails are missing/inadequate, the manufacturer requires it, or your company/site policy does. If a PFAS is used, **attach only to approved anchor points on the lift**, never to nearby structures.
- **ANSI/SAIA A92 (MEWP) best practices:** Build a written **Safe-Use Plan**, perform a **site risk assessment** and have a **rescue plan**, and ensure operator/supervisor/occupant training & familiarization.

#### Pre-Use (each shift) — Quick Checklist

- Competent person** has inspected the unit (frame, scissor stack, welds, platform, tires/wheels).
- Guardrails, mid-rails, toe boards & gate** intact and secure; platform extension locks engage.
- Controls & safeties:** drive/steer, brakes, horn, emergency stop, **tilt & pothole protection**, emergency lowering — **tested functional**.
- Capacity** (people + tools/materials) within the posted rating; load spread evenly; secure small tools.
- Grounding hazards:** cords/hoses managed; battery/fuel systems OK; no leaks.
- Operator's manual on the machine;** today's pre-use inspection logged.

#### Set Up the Work Area

- **Surface:** firm, level, and capable of supporting the load; protect covers, trenches, voids. Respect **slope limits in the manual**.
- **Traffic & crush hazards:** barricade the work zone; use a spotter in congested or overhead-obstructed areas.
- **Electrical:** Maintain **minimum approach distances** from exposed, energized lines — e.g., **10 ft up to 50 kV** (3 ft if insulated and <300 V); add distance above 50 kV. When closer work is necessary, coordinate **de-energizing/insulating** with the utility owner.
- **Weather:** Do **not** work in storms or **high winds** unless a competent person deems it safe and additional protections are used. Follow the **manufacturer's wind rating**; avoid wind screens unless the lift is secured for the added loads.

#### Operate Safely

- Keep the **gate closed**; both feet on the deck. **Do not climb/stand on rails** or use ladders/planks on the platform.
- Travel **slowly and only as allowed by the manufacturer**; avoid holes, drop-offs and driving elevated on uneven/soft ground. Lower before travel when required.
- **Watch overhead** to prevent entrapment/crush; use a spotter when visibility is limited.
- **Never exceed capacity**; know the reduction when the deck is extended. Keep the platform clear of debris.
- **Do not tie off to buildings or other structures.** If using PFAS, connect to the lift's designated anchor(s) only.

#### Training & roles

- **OSHA:** Train workers to recognize hazards and use the lift safely; designate a **competent person**; inspect **before each shift**.
- **ANSI (industry best practice):** Provide **operator, occupant, and supervisor** training; keep **training & familiarization records**; implement a **written Safe-Use Plan** and **rescue plan** for MEWP operations.

#### Kentucky Contacts & Reporting

- **Report immediately:**
  - **Fatality** — within **8 hours**
  - **In-patient hospitalization, amputation, loss of an eye** — within **24 hours**
  - Report to **KY OSH Compliance: (502) 564-3070** (business hours) or **1-800-321-OSHA (6742)** after hours.
  - Occurrence window: **fatalities within 30 days** of the incident; **other events within 24 hours** of the incident.
- **Free help: KYSAFE On-Site Consultation & Training** (non-enforcement).
  - Safety Consultation: **(502) 564-3345**
  - Health Consultation: **(502) 564-2753**
  - eTraining & resources: **kysafe.ky.gov**

#### **Do / Don't**

**Do:** follow the manual, barricade the work area, use a spotter, verify power-line distances, and stop for unsafe weather.

**Don't:** move recklessly while elevated, defeat safety devices, exceed capacity, lean outside guardrails, or operate near energized lines without required clearances.

*Sources used: OSHA scaffold & scissor-lift guidance; Kentucky OSH reporting and consultation information; ANSI/SAIA A92 safe-use & training best practices.*