



TECH SHEET

Technical Tips To Help You And Your Customers

CODES AND STANDARDS

TECH SHEET NO. CS-3

DATE ISSUED 10/24/96

DATE REVISED 11/10/03

POLICY ON CODE COMPLIANCE – SCISSORS LIFTS

The *Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970* placed the responsibility upon each employer to provide for their employee a place in which to work free from recognized hazards to safety and health. *OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)* standards are listed in a series of publications called the *Federal Register*. The *Federal Register* does not call out any requirements specifically for industrial scissors lifts.

OSHA does not approve, recommend, certify or test any product or equipment for the purpose of evaluating its performance or compliance with the *OSHA* standards for mechanical equipment. *OSHA* typically refers to codes, regulations or standards published by various groups, i.e. *ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers)* *ANSI (American National Standards Institute)* *NFPA (National Fire Prevention Association)* etc.

There was no clear-cut, nationally recognized standard for industrial scissors lifts designed prior to 1994. Manufacturers used applicable portions of various codes or standards that they thought were appropriate. On January 14, 1994, *LMPS (Lift Manufacturers Product Section of the Material Handling Institute)* published the first *ANSI* standard specifically for industrial scissors lifts.

The second edition of this standard was approved by *ANSI* on August 13, 2003. This updated revision supercedes the original, first edition.

Today the only code or standard applicable for lifts is *ANSI Standard MH29.1-2003 "Safety Requirements for Industrial Scissors Lifts"*. This nationally recognized standard is a complete and comprehensive regulation covering all aspects of lift design, manufacture, use and performance to "ensure minimum standards for the protection of users and operators and to eliminate confusion for governing bodies".

ANSI Standard MH29.1-2003 is a voluntary standard. Manufacturers of lifts as well as end users have a choice to comply. Southworth played an integral role in the development of this standard. Southworth has chosen to meet this standard. Every aspect of a new lift or a retrofitted component to an existing lift needs to fully comply. Should there be any problem meeting a customer requirement or a specification, it will be brought to the buyer's attention prior to the sale. Copies of *MH29.1-2003* are available on request.

ANSI Standard MH29.1-2003 also covers electrical responsibilities. All components and internal wiring is done in accordance with the most current edition of the *NEC (National Electrical Code)*.

Lastly, the *ANSI Standard MH29.1-2003* also details the user's responsibility to the lift. This is an important aspect of safety since no matter how well a lift may be designed and fabricated, it can be improperly applied, mis-used or poorly maintained rendering it unfit or even unsafe. When existing equipment is being retrofitted, upgraded or even changed, it is in the customers best interest to bring the equipment up to today's standards. If there are any questions, please contact Southworth's Product Support Department.