

# Automotive Lift Inspection. What's required?

Auto lifts are an essential piece of equipment needed in the automotive industry. As required with any equipment, auto lifts must be inspected and maintained. OSHA recognizes the importance of maintaining lifts to prevent accidents and injuries.

To accomplish this, OSHA follows the Standard for Automotive Lifts – Safety Requirements for Operation, Inspection and Maintenance established by the American National Standard Institute. The standard is referred to as ANSI/ALI ALOIM: 2020, which was developed in conjunction with Automotive Lift Institute, Inc. The Automotive Lift Institute is involved in certifying manufactured automotive lifts, training users of automotive lifts, and training personnel to become qualified automotive lift inspectors. ANSI requires auto lifts to be inspected by a qualified lift inspector at least annually as a minimal requirement.

Who's considered a qualified lift inspector? As required by ANSI, a qualified lift inspector will have:

- 1) Knowledge of personal safety practices necessary to perform automotive lift inspections of newly-installed or existing equipment
- 2) Familiarity with industry terminology, including the terms defined and used in ANSI/ALI ALCTV (automotive lift construction, testing, and validation).
- 3) The ability to read and understand equipment manuals, drawings, and parts lists
- 4) Knowledge of the purpose and function of all components, devices, and accessories commonly employed on automotive lifts
- 5) Working knowledge of electrical and electronic control circuit principles as applied to the operation of pumps, motors, valves, and switches
- 6) Working knowledge of mechanical principles as applied to structures, machines, mechanisms, and the effects of traction on wire rope, chains, and sheaves
- 7) Working knowledge of hydraulic principles as applied to the operation of valves, pumps, cylinders (or plungers), and piping
- 8) Working knowledge of pneumatic principles as applied to the operations of valves, compressors, cylinders (or plunges), pressure vessels, airbags, bellows, and piping
- 9) Knowledge of the many and varied types and styles of automotive lifts, their uses, and any limitations or restricted applications pertaining thereto



Due to the stringent training requirements to become a qualified lift inspector, you'll likely need to have your automotive lifts inspected by an outside vendor. If you need help finding a qualified lift inspector, ALI provides a [directory of vendors in your area](#).

You may ask, "What can I do to assure my lifts are working properly before an annual inspection is completed by a qualified inspector?" As the owner or employer, you need to ensure operators of auto lifts are trained on the safe use and operation of auto lifts in your shop using the manufacturer-provided instructions and warning labels. Operators should use all safety features on the lift, as well as ensure the lift and surrounding area are clean and orderly. Part of the training will include the need for operators to remain attentive to notice at least:

- 1) Accessibility and readability of the operating procedures, safety tips, and generic safety material
- 2) Accessibility and readability of safety warning labels
- 3) Readability of the rated load capacity of the lift
- 4) Proper operation of the lift controls (including over-travel shut off devices and synchronizing systems), restraints, and locking and load holding devices
- 5) Deformation or excessive wear on any of the lift structural components
- 6) Deformation or excessive wear of other components such as hoses, electrical wires, drive chains, wire rope, or screws

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- 7) Damage or excessive wear on any of the lift contact points which engage the vehicle during lifting, whether they engage the tires, frame, body, or axles
- 8) Evidence of hydraulic or pneumatic leaks
- 9) Unusual noises, sudden movements, erratic operations, or evidence of chips or filings during use
- 10) Cracks or loose concrete around floor anchor bolts
- 11) Questionable accessories, including those professionally, shop, or homemade

In the event any of the items are observed, the lift operator will promptly report the condition to the supervisor. The lift will not be used until the appropriate maintenance or repairs have been made. To ensure the lift will not be used until repairs are made, the lift will be locked-out or tagged-out in accordance with lockout/tagout requirements.

If you need more information on automotive lift operator training, inspection, and maintenance you may reference ANSI/ALI ALOIM: 2020, which was made effective January 1, 2021. This document may be purchased through this ALI website: [American National Standard ANSI/ALI ALOIM: 2020 Standard for Automotive Lifts – Safety Requirements for Operation, Inspection and Maintenance – Autolift.org](http://AmericanNationalStandard.org).

American National Standard. Standard for Automotive Lifts – Safety Requirements for Operation, Inspection and Maintenance. ANSI/ALI ALOIM:2020. Approved: March 13, 2020.