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By Email: 3 pages plus attachment

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Inspection frequency of automotive lifts — are you meeting the minimum requirements?

During a recent meeting with WorkSafeBC, the use of automotive lifts in schools was discussed. In particular, WorkSafeBC expressed concern that they believe regular inspections of the automotive lifts are not being performed.

WorkSafeBC referred to the 2002 incident in which a student died when a vehicle that he was working under rolled forward and off a runway (drive-on) lift. He was pinned between the undercarriage of the vehicle and the front horizontal support member of the lift. Notwithstanding the fact this accident was not the result of the failure of the automotive lift, WorkSafeBC has expressed interest in ensuring that regular inspections are conducted.

Compliance with the Regulations and Standards

Part 12 – Tools, Machinery and Equipment of the *Occupational Health & Safety Regulation* includes regulations governing the installation, operation and inspection of automotive lifts. It also incorporates by reference the requirements of *ANSI Standard ANSI/ALI ALCTV-1998, American National Standard for Automotive Lifts -- Safety Requirements for Construction, Testing and Validation* and with respect to the operation, inspection and maintenance of an automotive lift, the requirements of *ANSI Standard ANSI/ALI ALOIM-2000, American National Standard for Automotive Lifts -- Safety Requirements for Operation, Inspection and Maintenance*.

Inspection frequency

The *Occupational Health & Safety Regulation* and the *ANSI* standards indicate that inspections and maintenance must be performed at the frequency set out by the manufacturer.

Essentially, notwithstanding the manufacturer's recommendations, the Regulation and standards require the owner of an automotive lift, at a minimum, to perform inspections daily, monthly and yearly with the comprehensiveness of the inspection increasing accordingly. In all cases, the results of the inspection must be recorded and those records must be kept for the life of the lift.

▪ **Daily inspections**

The daily inspections may be performed by the owner and must be performed prior to the first daily operation of the automotive lift. The *ANSI Standard ANSI/ALI ALOIM-2000* referred to above requires a daily inspection and observation of the following:

- Accessibility and readability of operating procedures, safety tips and generic safety material
- Accessibility and readability of safety warning labels
- Readability of the rated load capacity of the lift
- Proper operation of the lift controls, restraints and locking devices
- Deformation or excessive wear of other components such as hoses, electrical wires, drive chains, cables and screws
- Damage or excessive wear on any lift contact points which engage the vehicle during lifting, whether they engage the tires, frame, body or axles
- Evidence of hydraulic or pneumatic leaks
- Unusual noises, sudden movements, erratic operation or evidence of chips or filings during use, and
- Cracks or loose concrete around floor anchor bolts, if employed.

▪ **Monthly inspections**

The monthly inspections may be performed by the owner. The *Occupational Health & Safety Regulation* sets out the requirement for monthly inspections:

12.78 Inspection and testing

An automotive lift must be inspected and tested monthly in a manner acceptable to the Board, unless the manufacturer requires more frequent inspection and testing.

Sample checklists for monthly inspections have been attached to this newsletter.

Please note that these checklists are samples only. You must refer to the manufacturer's documentation for a statement of the required frequency of inspections and the items that must be inspected.

▪ **Yearly inspections**

Yearly inspections must be conducted by a qualified inspector. The inspector will provide an inspection report that will detail the results of the inspection and any subsequent repairs or replacements that must be performed. The repairs and replacements included in the report must be performed prior to returning the automotive lift into operation.

The specifics of the yearly inspection are provided in *ANSI Standard ANSI/ALI ALOIM-2000, American National Standard for Automotive Lifts – Safety Requirements for Operation, Inspection and Maintenance*.

▪ **Preventive maintenance frequency**

Neither the *Regulation* nor the *ANSI* standards specifically mandate a frequency for preventive maintenance of an automotive lift. Both stipulate that preventive maintenance must follow the schedule and procedure as set out by the lift manufacturer.

Say goodbye to Form 7A — WorkSafeBC introduces a new Form 7, Employers Report of Injury or Occupational Disease

The new Form 7 was released in January 2008 on the WorkSafe BC website.

The information that was formerly requested on the First Aid Report (Form 7A) is now requested on the revised Form 7. WorkSafeBC explains that you now no longer need to submit a First Aid Report to WorkSafeBC.

Notwithstanding this change by WorkSafeBC, you must continue to record first aid incidents and you must keep your first aid records on site.

WorkSafeBC touts the benefits of the new Form 7 as follows:

- WorkSafeBC has eliminated the duplicate questions on Forms 7 and 7A; employers complete and submit only one form
- The revised Form 7 gathers all information at once — including first aid/medical questions, and return-to-work planning — rather than via many forms/follow-up calls
- WorkSafeBC believes that the questions are clearer and grouped under headings
- More information is gathered on the form and therefore sent to WorkSafeBC early in the claims process, thereby reducing delays and the need for follow up.

What does this mean for you?

As more information is required on the form, it will generally take more time to fill out. Keep in mind, the *Workers Compensation Act* requires employers to file a Form 7 within three days of an incident/accident. Also, as you now need the first aid information to complete the Form 7, you must put procedures in place or otherwise ensure that the first aid information gets to the individual(s) or department that is filling out and sending in the Form 7.

WorkSafeBC is requesting that the new form be utilized effective January 1, 2008. The form is currently available online at: <http://worksafebc.com/forms/assets/PDF/7.pdf>

Coming attractions

In the coming weeks you will be sent a link to an online health & safety survey. I encourage you to complete the survey. The results will give us a snapshot of the sector to clearly identify emerging issues, common issues, strengths, and weaknesses. This in turn will allow us to focus our resources and offer education, training and assistance where they are needed the most.

Questions

If you:

- require assistance in completing the new Form 7
- wish to suggest any topics you would like discussed in an *OH&S Issues* bulletin, or
- have any questions on the information provided in this bulletin or on any other occupational health, safety and wellness issue

please contact Mark Grabas at 604.730.4509 or markg@bcpsea.bc.ca.

Attachment