

Risk Assessment for working with Genies or Scissor Lifts

Scope:

This document gives general guidance on use of Genies and Scissor Lifts in the BBC Studioworks. At the end of the document you will find the generic risk assessment for use of these hoists in the studio. It covers all reasonably expected use of this equipment. If your required activity is not covered in this document please speak to the Resource Manager to ensure that a suitable risk assessment is undertaken.

Guidance:

When hydraulic platforms are being used, you must ensure that prior to the work commencing, the contractor has provided an adequate risk assessment/lifting plan which does not conflict with your requirements.

Because hydraulic hoists present certain hazards that require very careful control it is essential that all factors are thoroughly assessed and addressed. The risk assessment must take into account all factors that may influence the safe use of a hydraulic hoist. This assessment should be based on the significant findings passed onto you by the hydraulic hoist contractor from their risk assessment; it should also deal with the interaction of the hoist with other activities, personnel, contractors etc.

To be suitable and sufficient, the contractor's risk assessment/lifting plan should meet your safety requirements and also be checked to ensure it identifies the following precautions:

- use only on level, firm ground;
- jacks/stabilisers are deployed and secure;
- the operator is competent/trained;
- a safety harness will be worn at all times by those in the platform;
- all equipment in the platform will be secured;
- the safe operating parameters of the platform will be observed (e.g. max. loading, max. working radius, etc.)
- consideration of the proximity of overhead obstructions.

Security:

There must be satisfactory arrangements to prevent unauthorised access to the base of the platform, taking account of the nature of the event and the number of people likely to be present. In some instances a security cordon and guard(s) would be required.

Emergencies:

If anyone is trapped in the elevated cage because of equipment failure, where possible an attempt should be made by the operator to lower the cage by bleeding down the hydraulics system. If no one can reach the ground using an escape system, contact the emergency services. A personal escape system (e.g. Davey Escape where fitted) should only be used as a last resort.

Under no circumstances should a second hoist be used to affect a rescue (except by the emergency services). Joy riding is prohibited at all times.

The people that might be harmed: Studioworks employees, contractors, public, artists

HAZARD	CONTROL
<p>People falling from the hoist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoist must only be operated by people who are trained and competent to do so. • Where appropriate people in the hoist should be harnessed. • The operator must never go aloft in the basket (unless a second operator is present at ground level) so as a rescue may be affected in the event of failure. • The hoist must not be moved with people aloft unless it is designed to do so. • Joyriding in the hoist is never permitted.
<p>Items falling from the hoist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All equipment taken in the hoist must be safely stowed. • All equipment used should be tethered to prevent falling over the side • An exclusion zone around the hoist must be put in place
<p>The collapse, overturning or failure of the hoist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All hoists are regularly tested in line with LOLER Requirements. • All platforms are regularly maintained by a competent person. • All appropriate devices such as outriggers are used as designed where necessary • The platform must be used with Safe Working Limits. The safe Working limit should be displayed clearly on the equipment. • It is the operator's responsibility to ensure the safe operation of the platform and the work area.
<p>The hoist striking equipment, buildings, overhead obstructions, people etc. during operation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be effective communications between the operator and the cage at all times. • The operator must confirm that they regard the position of the machine as safe. • The number of people in the cage must be kept to a minimum. The platform must never carry more people than it is designed to. • There must be adequate provision to prevent unauthorised access to the base of the platform which should be managed by the operator.

HAZARD	CONTROL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platform should never be raised in the vicinity of members of the public.
<p>Emergency Procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If anyone is trapped in the elevated cage because of equipment failure, where possible an attempt should be made by the operator to lower the cage by bleeding down the hydraulics system. If no one can reach the ground using an escape system, contact the emergency services. A personal escape system (e.g. Davey Escape where fitted) should only be used as a last resort. Under no circumstances should a second hoist be used to affect a rescue (except by the emergency services).
<p>Collapse of Floor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of any plant or machinery should be within the safe working loads for the floor.