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IPAF Statement: Scissor Lift Mechanism Guarding

The European safety in design standard for mobile elevating work platforms, i.e. EN280:2001, allows non-physical guarding to protect against contact with the lift mechanism of scissor lifts. This applies to scissor lifts that can pass through openings of 1.2m width and 2m height. EN280 is currently being revised and it has been proposed that this should apply to all scissor lifts. IPAF supports this proposal.

IPAF is concerned that fixed guarding positioned around the lift mechanism can encourage personnel to adopt unsafe practices when carrying out maintenance, particularly on larger scissor lifts. Also, that the fixed guarding often needs to be removed for maintenance or inspection purposes and may not be replaced afterwards. Non-physical guarding is considered to overcome these problems.

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