

Vertical Platform Lifts Policy

Addition to NEC 620.51 (A) Exception No.1

Policy to clarify the requirements for vertical platform lifts, which must meet the requirements of the National Electrical Code.

The National Electrical Code (NEC) allows:

NEC 620.51 (A) Disconnecting Means and Control

Exception No. 1: Where an individual branch circuit supplies a platform lift, the disconnecting means required by 620.51(C) (4) SHALL BE PERMITTED TO COMPLY WITH 430.109 (C). This disconnecting means shall be listed and shall be capable of being locked in the open position. The provisions for locking or adding a lock to the disconnecting means shall be installed on or at the switch or circuit breaker used as the disconnecting means and shall remain in place with or without the lock installed. Portable means for adding a lock to the switch or circuit breaker shall not be permitted as the means required to be installed at and remain with the equipment.

With regards to a plug in application the Elevator Program will allow the installation of a residential vertical platform lift (VPL) if the following conditions are met for a cord and plug connection:

1. The VPL's main power source must be from a battery system that is receiving its charge from a cord and plug connected AC battery charger connected to a branch circuit.
2. The circuit supplying the battery charger must be protected by a ground fault circuit protector (GFCI Breaker).
3. The receptacle used to connect to the battery charger must have a cover meeting the requirements of National Electric Code (NEC) 406.8(B).
4. The cord must be:
 - a. Hard service rated.
 - b. Listed by an electrical testing laboratory approved by the Department of Labor and Industries Electrical Program.
 - c. In compliance with the requirements of the NEC 400.
 - d. Properly secured at least every 24 inches, not present a tripping hazard, and be limited to 12 feet in length from the battery charger.
5. A sign must be posted at both the AC and DC source of power disconnecting means that states "Warning-Parts of the control panel are not deenergized by this switch."
6. At the DC source of power, a disconnect must be located on the exterior and within site of the lift. The disconnect must be lockable, identify the available voltage, and be identified according to NEC 110.22.

All other requirements in chapter 296-96 WAC, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) A18.1, and the NEC apply.