AUTOMOTIVE LIFT INSTITUTE, INC.
P.O. Box 85 • Cortland, N.Y. 13045 • Tel: (607) 756-7775 • Fax: (607) 756-0888
www.autolift.org info@autolift.org

Request for Interpretation - Response

April 15, 2015

Request for Interpretation (RFI) dated February 23, 2015, relating to Section 9.2.11 – Load Holding Device of ANSI/ALI-ALCTV:2011, Automotive Lifts - Safety Requirements for Construction, Testing and Validation (Technical Issue #TI-15-001)

This document comprises the official response of the Automotive Lift Institute, Inc. (ALI) to the "Request for Interpretation" relating to the requirements of ANSI/ALI ALCTV, Standard for Automotive Lifts – Safety Requirements for Construction, Testing and Validation (2011 Edition), as submitted in February 23, 2015. Questions from this request have been paraphrased for clarity.

Section 9.2.11 – Load Holding Device "All automotive lifts (including wheels-free-devices), except screw drive systems shall incorporate a mechanical device (e.g. a latching system) to prevent downward movement of more than six (6) inches after stopping motion. Function shall begin within twenty-four (24) inches of rise [six (6) inches for wheels-free-devices], and shall continue to the full rise position. Load holding devices shall require positive action for release. Automatic release of latches is prohibited. If latches do not automatically reset after disengagement to permit lowering the load, then the lift shall incorporate a warning label at the point of latch operation and at the point of lift operation that states that the latches do not automatically reset after lowering. The printed materials furnished with the lift shall incorporate the same warning…" (Remainder of paragraph omitted).

Question 1: Does a single, manually applied (inserted) locking pin meet the requirements of ANSI/ALI ALCTV:2011, Section 9.2.11?
Response 1: No.

Question 2: Does a single, manually applied (inserted) locking pin meet the requirements of ANSI/ALI ALCTV:2011, Section 9.2.11 if it incorporates holes every 6 inches starting at 24 inches from the floor and engage the pin manually at every 6 inches?
Response 2: No.

Question 3: Are automatic locking devices required by ANSI/ALI ALCTV:2011 for in-ground single post lifts?
Response 3: Yes.

Question 4: If a manually applied (inserted) locking pin does not meet the requirements of ANSI/ALI ALCTV:2011, could the design be changed to meet the requirements of ANSI/ALI ALCTV:2011, Section 9.2.11?
Response 4: Yes.

Question 5: If a manually applied (inserted) locking pin does not meet the requirements of ANSI/ALI ALCTV:2011, could installed lifts be modified to meet the requirements of ANSI/ALI ALCTV:2011?
Response 5: No.

ANSI/ALI ALCTV:2011 is the current industry recognized consensus standard for automotive lifts addressing safety requirements for construction, testing, and validation. This standard does not address modification subsequent to manufacture. However, ANSI/ALI ALOIM:2008 (R2013) is the current industry recognized consensus standard for automotive lifts addressing safety requirements for operation, inspection, and maintenance. **Section 7-Modifications** states "There shall be no modifications or reconstruction made to any automotive lift without the express written permission of the manufacturer."

Automotive lifts described as conforming to ANSI/ALI ALCTV:2011 must meet all applicable requirements including third party evaluation and certification, as evidenced by an appropriate label, affixed to the lift in a prominent location by an accredited Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).

Question 6: Was there a specific time that the standards covering automotive lifts incorporated requirements for these locking devices.
Response 6: Yes.

Automotive Lift Standards were published in 1948, 1951, 1958, 1962, 1965, 1974, 1981, 1990, 1998, 2006 and 2011. By obtaining the date of manufacture for a specific lift that is in question and obtaining copies of these out-of-print standards from ALI, you should be able to evaluate specific lift conformity.

ANSI B153.1-1974 was the first industry consensus standard to require such a locking device. ANSI B153.1-1974, 1981 and 1990 required an "automatic locking device at full extension".

ANSI/ALI ALCTV-1998 was the first industry consensus standard to require; "all automotive lifts except screw-drive systems shall incorporate a mechanical device to prevent downward movement of more than six (6) inches after stopping motion. Function shall begin within twenty-four (24) inches of rise and shall continue to the full rise position."

As to the safety or acceptability of the design submitted within your question, we cannot evaluate, approve or comment upon specific designs, concepts, or modifications.

If a manufacturer, for whatever reason, is unwilling or unable to approve a modification to an installed automotive lift, only an authority having jurisdiction (AHJ), such as the owner of the lift, corporate safety officials, code enforcement, or an agency having health and safety oversight or regulatory control, would be in a position to mandate a modification.