

**ASME PALD-2009**  
(Revision of ASME PALD-2005)

# **Safety Standard for Portable Automotive Lifting Devices**

**AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD**



**The American Society of  
Mechanical Engineers**



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## FOREWORD

This ASME Standard, Safety Standard for Portable Automotive Lifting Devices, has been developed under the procedures for ASME Codes and Standards development committees. This Standard had its beginning in June 1979 when the Jack Institute addressed the B30 Committee on Cableways, Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks, and Slings. The Jack Institute requested the B30 Committee either to develop a standard for automotive jacks or to include this equipment as part of the revision of B30.1, Jacks. The B30 Committee declined this request.

As a result, the Jack Institute petitioned ANSI in July 1979 for the formation of a committee to promulgate safety and/or performance standards for portable automotive lifting devices, requesting the designation of ASME as sponsor of the project.

In September 1979, ASME's Policy Board, Codes and Standards, approved sponsorship of the committee to operate under the procedures developed by ASME and accredited by ANSI. A nominating committee was appointed to recommend a proposed membership to the ASME Safety Codes and Standards Committee for approval. The membership was approved at the beginning of May 1980.

The inaugural meeting of the ASME Committee on Portable Automotive Lifting Devices (PALD) was held in July 1980. The committee determined that the format of this standard would be such that separate volumes, each complete as to design, marking, identification, testing, operation, inspection, and maintenance, would cover the different types of equipment included in the PALD scope. In the 1993 edition the various volumes were combined into one Standard with common requirements in one place and the information that is specific to a particular type of equipment set out in succeeding Parts. This allowed for greater consistency in requirements and eliminated redundancy.

The 1997 edition was a further revision and consolidation of the 1993 edition and includes a Part covering automotive ramps.

The 2003 edition is a revision of the 1997 edition, and includes a Part covering forklift jacks.

This Standard presents a coordinated set of rules that may serve as a guide to manufacturers, to government and other regulatory bodies, to municipal authorities, and to commercial users responsible for the inspection, maintenance, and instruction in the use of the equipment falling within its scope.

This edition of the Standard, which was approved by the ASME Committee on Portable Automotive Lifting Devices and by ASME, was approved by ANSI and designated as an American National Standard on September 19, 2005.

Safety codes and standards are intended to enhance public health and safety. Revisions result from committee consideration of factors such as technological advances, new data, and changing environmental and industry needs. Revisions do not imply that previous editions were inadequate.

ASME PALD-2009 was approved by the American National Standards Institute on November 13, 2009.



# ASME PALD COMMITTEE

## Portable Automotive Lifting Devices

(The following is the roster of the Committee at the time of approval of this Standard.)

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**J. Willis**, *Alternate*, Consumer Testing Laboratories, Inc.  
**T. W. Schellens**, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
**D. W. Soos**, Intertek



# PREFACE

## GENERAL

This Standard is one of many safety standards on various subjects that have been formulated under the general auspices of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). One purpose of the Standard is to serve as a guide to governmental authorities having jurisdiction over subjects within the scope of the Standard. It is expected, however, that the Standard will find a major application in industry, serving as a guide to manufacturers, suppliers, purchasers, and operators of the equipment. If adopted for governmental use, the references to other national standards in this Standard may be changed to refer to the corresponding regulations of the governmental authorities.

The use of portable automotive lifting devices is subject to certain hazards that cannot be precluded by mechanical means, but only by the exercise of intelligence, care, and common sense. It is therefore essential to have personnel involved in the use and operation of equipment who are careful, competent, trained, and qualified in the safe operation of the equipment and its proper use when servicing motor vehicles and their components. Examples of hazards are dropping, tipping, or slipping of motor vehicles or their components caused primarily by improperly securing loads, overloading, off-centered loads, use on other than hard level surfaces, and using equipment for a purpose for which it was not designed.

The PALD Committee fully realizes the importance of proper size, strength, and stability as safety factors in the design of this equipment. This equipment is used on various motor vehicles and their components under variable working conditions. These conditions have been considered to provide safety and flexibility in its use. The requirements given in this Standard must be interpreted accordingly and judgment should be used in determining their application.

## MANDATORY AND ADVISORY RULES

Mandatory rules of this Standard are characterized by use of the word *shall*. If a provision is of an advisory nature, it is indicated by use of the word *should* and is a recommendation to be considered, the advisability of which depends on the facts in each situation.

## SI (METRIC) CONVERSIONS

This Standard contains SI (metric) units as well as customary units. The values stated in U.S. Customary

units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI units in the text have been directly (soft) converted from the customary units.

## PROPOSING REVISIONS

Comments on the Standard's requirements and suggestions for its improvement, based on experience in the application of the rules, may be sent to the PALD Committee.

Suggestions for changes to the Standard should be submitted to the Secretary of the Committee on Portable Automotive Lifting Devices, ASME, Three Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017-5900, and should be in accordance with the following format:

- (a) cite the specific part or section and paragraph designation
- (b) indicate the suggested change (addition, deletion, revision, etc.)
- (c) briefly state the reason or evidence for the suggested change
- (d) submit suggested changes to more than one paragraph in the order in which the paragraphs appear in the Standard

The PALD Committee will consider each suggested change in a timely manner according to its procedures.

## INTERPRETATIONS

Upon request, the PALD Committee will render an interpretation of any requirement of the Standard. Interpretations can only be rendered in response to a written request sent to the Secretary of the PALD Committee at the address shown above.

The request for interpretation should be clear and unambiguous. It is further recommended that the inquirer submit any request using the following format.

- Subject: Cite the applicable part or section and paragraph number, and provide a concise description.
- Edition: Cite the applicable edition of the pertinent standard for which the interpretation is being requested.
- Question: Phrase the question as a request for an interpretation of a specific requirement suitable for general understanding and use, not as a request for approval of a proprietary design or situation. The



inquirer also may include any plans or drawings that are necessary to explain the question; however, they should not contain proprietary names or information.

Requests that are not in this format will be rewritten in this format by the Committee before being answered,

which may inadvertently change the intent of the original request.

ASME procedures provide for reconsideration of any interpretation when or if additional information that might affect an interpretation is available. Further, persons aggrieved by an interpretation may appeal to the cognizant ASME committee or subcommittee. ASME does not “approve,” “certify,” “rate,” or “endorse” any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity.

