



Affordable Lifts

Accessibility Features and ADA / ASME A18.1 Considerations

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Affordable Lifts provides configurable vertical platform lifts to help people using wheelchairs reach porches, decks, garages, and other changes in level. Our product offers features that address accessibility and lift-safety objectives, including configurable platforms and gates, a documented safety backup system, travel-limit switches, and installation and maintenance guidance.

Affordable Lifts is not presenting this product as certified to ASME A18.1. The features described here do not establish full ADA or ASME A18.1 compliance. Any compliance statement must identify the exact lift, configuration, applicable standard edition, and completed installation.

How our product addresses accessibility and safety objectives

Wheelchair access and layout. A platform allows the rider to remain in a wheelchair during travel. We offer two standard platform sizes, 36 × 48 inches and 36 × 60 inches, together with different entry arrangements. These choices let the platform and travel path be selected around the wheelchair, approach, caregiver position, and landing. The nominal footprints are 12 and 15 square feet, below the 18-square-foot platform-area maximum stated in the Access Board guide. A ground-level entrance ramp is also available for wheelchair access; verify its finished slope, clear width, transitions, and landings against the applicable ramp requirements. [4] The finished clear dimensions must be confirmed after panels, rails, gates, and hardware are installed. [1, 6]

Capacity. Our passenger-lift range has a published standard lifting capacity of 750 lb. The combined rider, wheelchair, and any accompanying person must remain within the exact unit's rating. Rated capacity is a product specification; it does not establish the required structural, brake, or safety-test performance. [1]

Platform sides and flooring. Both 36-inch and 44-inch rails are available, along with solid panels and solid steel floors with diamond-pattern traction, offered unfinished or painted. These options allow the protective-side height, closed surfaces, and floor construction to be selected for the project's requirements. The final assembly must also satisfy the applicable strength, attachment, gap, and traction criteria.



Rated travel speed. Affordable Lifts confirms operation within the standard vertical-platform-lift rated-speed ceiling of 30 feet per minute (0.15 m/s). ASME A18.1:2020 §2.7.1 also specifies a 10-feet-per-minute ceiling for special performance lifts under §2.1.6; the applicable edition and lift category govern the project's speed check. [7]

Controlled movement and stopping. Hold-to-run controls require continuous pressure and stop travel when the operating button is released. Wireless controls are standard and use an Apollo wireless antenna; tethered controls are available. Three wireless controllers can be positioned at the lower landing, upper landing, and mounted on the lift platform. We also have a separate emergency-stop button and an available manual crank for emergency lowering. Published resources include upper-limit-switch guidance. These functions address intentional operation and normal travel stopping; safety-circuit fault behavior and any required independent final stopping protection remain to be verified. [1, 3]

Safety backup and continued care. Our public safety resources include inspection information for self-retracting lifeline and Safety Lock fall-protection systems. The correct manual and safety-device instructions must be matched to the lift's serial number. Published resources also cover bracing, installation, controls, and an upper limit switch. These are meaningful safety provisions; they do not establish successful ASME engineering or acceptance testing. [2, 3]

What ADA and ASME A18.1 mean

ADA accessibility requirements govern covered facilities and accessible routes. Section 410 requires platform lifts to comply with the referenced ASME A18.1 editions and provide independent operation and unassisted entry and exit. A private-home installation and a public or community installation require different applicability reviews. Cargo-only equipment is outside this passenger-access statement. [4]

ASME A18.1 addresses lift design, construction, installation, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and repair. It reaches beyond platform size and convenience features. The edition adopted by the local authority must be identified alongside the editions referenced by ADA; the newest published edition is not automatically the controlling edition everywhere. [4, 5]

Where configuration and verification matter

Clear platform space. The Access Board's lift guide illustrates at least 36 inches of clear width and 48 inches of length for end-entry layouts, increasing to 60 inches of length for side-entry layouts. Our 36 × 48 and 36 × 60 standard sizes can address those dimensional targets when the required dimensions remain clear inside the finished assembly and the entry orientation is suitable. Our website also lists approximately 34 × 48 inches usable for a nominal 36 × 48 platform; that configuration would fall short of the guide's 36-inch clear-width minimum. Confirm the actual clear dimensions and applicable floor-area limit before making a dimensional compliance statement. [1, 6]

Configuration review, continued

Gates and independent access. ADA §410.6 calls for low-energy powered doors or gates, a minimum 20-second open period, and clear openings of at least 32 inches at ends or 42 inches at sides. Its manual-gate exception is limited to lifts serving no more than two landings with gates on opposite sides; those gates must be self-closing. A manual latch alone does not establish the required safety interlock or independent access. [4]

Guarding, suspension, and obstruction protection. Available 36-inch or 44-inch rails with suitable solid panels can address protective-side height and closed-side requirements for the applicable arrangement. The required height, coverage, strength, and openings must be confirmed; neither rail height is a universal approval. Rope/hoist guarding, suspension suitability, gate safety interlocks, and under-platform obstruction protection require verification for the exact configuration. Platform-side upgrades do not establish machinery guarding or full suspension and braking compliance.

Floor, controls, and landing interface. ADA requires suitable floor surfaces and reachable, usable controls. We offer diamond-pattern steel floors, unfinished or painted. The finished surface must be firm, stable, and slip-resistant in its intended conditions of use. Section 309 includes one-hand operation without tight grasping, pinching, or wrist twisting, with activation force no greater than 5 lb. Section 410.4 limits the platform-sill-to-landing gap to 1¼ inches; the applicable ASME provision may be stricter. The platform controller mounts inside at 36–44 inches above its floor; verify accessible reach and independent use at every controller. These measurements and functions require verification on the installed lift. [4, 6]

Travel and site conditions. Our marketed travel range extends to 20 feet. That capability does not establish that every offered travel height, platform size, or runway arrangement is permitted under the governing standard. Actual travel, floor penetration, overhead clearance, landings, structural supports, electrical work, and required permits and inspections must be reviewed for the project. [1, 5]

Power options and electrical planning. We offer a 110-volt AC option and a 12-volt DC option powered by a marine-grade, non-lithium battery. BADA publishes 1,500 W input power for its 110–127 V PA1000B variant; this is a component rating, not measured lift-system consumption. Confirm the installed motor variant and circuit requirements. Battery sizing and energy use depend on load, travel, and frequency of use. These power choices support installation planning and are separate from ADA and A18.1 compliance. [8]

Certification and project approval

A documented feature can satisfy a particular requirement once its dimensions or performance have been verified. Certification, product listing, engineering tests, and installation approval are separate matters. Where the governing requirements call for any of them, the required evidence must be obtained. Customer acknowledgment or local acceptance of selected features does not replace missing equipment requirements or establish federal ADA compliance.

Before representing a project as compliant, complete a configuration-specific review of the adopted standard and all applicable provisions, obtain the required product and engineering documentation, resolve identified equipment gaps, and complete the required installation tests and inspections. This statement supports that review; it is not a certificate or approval.

“Affordable Lifts offers 36 × 48 and 36 × 60 platforms, 36-inch and 44-inch rails, solid panels, diamond-traction steel floors, a ground-level entrance ramp, three Apollo hold-to-run wireless controllers, an emergency-stop button, an available emergency-lowering crank, and a documented safety backup system. Choose 110-volt AC or a 12-volt DC marine-grade, non-lithium battery option. Our lifts operate within the standard 30-feet-per-minute ceiling, subject to applicable limits. Our lifts are not ASME A18.1 certified. ADA or A18.1 compliance requires review of the finished clear dimensions, equipment protections, entire installation, and applicable testing, certification, and approval requirements.”

Sources

[1] Affordable Lifts — Residential lift specifications.

[2] Affordable Lifts — Safety information.

[3] Affordable Lifts — Manuals & Guides; published installation, operation, and maintenance guidance. Refer to the manual for the exact model and configuration.

[4] U.S. Access Board — ADA Standards, §§206.7, 302, 303, 308, 309, 405, and 410.



[5] ASME — A18.1 Safety Standard, official scope and edition information. This document is not a complete clause-by-clause assessment of the adopted standard.

[6] U.S. Access Board — Platform lift guide.

[7] Intertek — ASME A18.1:2020 Standards Update Notice, §2.7.1: general 30-feet-per-minute and special performance lift 10-feet-per-minute limits.

[8] BADA — PA1000B manufacturer specifications: 110–127 V and 1,500 W input power. Component ratings are not measured lift-system consumption.