

ASPLUNDH UNIT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

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PRODUCT BULLETIN NO. 123

March 5, 1999

ASPLUNDH MANUFACTURED AERIAL DEVICES

!WARNING - IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE!

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW MANDATORY
ITEMS**

**CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR
DEATH**

CERTIFIED MAIL -- RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

**TO:
Aerial Lifts**

Dealers, Owners and Users, Renters and Operators of Asplundh

MODELS AFFECTED: All Models of Asplundh Manufactured Aerial Lifts

(Except as Otherwise Specifically Noted)

SUBJECT:

1. **MANDATORY 25 YEAR RETIREMENT OF UNITS AND MANDATORY REBUILD OF UNITS AT 15 YEARS**
2. **MANDATORY UPPER BOOM CABLE REPLACEMENT EVERY 2 YEARS**
 - (All models of Asplundh Manufactured Lifts are subject to mandatory two (2) year cable replacement except the following model designations: LRIII; LBM; LBL; LBIII; LBII; LBH; LN and LD models. Also excepted are L30 Model Series with Serial Numbers Higher Than 910001(The L30 Series includes Models L32, L34, L36,L34TM, L36TM, and L38TM). Cable inspection, maintenance and replacement on units not subject to this Bulletin must be done in accordance with current applicable manuals, bulletins and manufacturer's recommendations.
3. **HYDRAULIC CYLINDER MAINTENANCE/INSPECTION**
4. **UNIT OWNER IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM**
5. **DECALS, BULLETINS AND UPDATED MANUALS**

In May of 1992 Asplundh Tree Expert Co. sold its manufacturing facilities and engineering designs and discontinued operations as a manufacturer of aerial devices and brush chippers. Although Asplundh is no longer in the business of manufacturing, we are issuing this bulletin to convey important information. In March of 1993 Asplundh issued Product Bulletin 122 in an effort to reach all purchasers and/or current owners of Asplundh aerial devices manufactured between 1958 and 1992. Our intent was to remind dealers, owners, users, renters and operators of their responsibilities regarding operation and maintenance of aerial devices under ANSI A92.2 to assure the safety of those working in or around this equipment.

Since Product Bulletin Number 122 was issued, we have found that most accidents are a result of 1) not properly inspecting and maintaining the equipment, or 2) not operating the equipment in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and safe work practices.

We have issued this bulletin to:

- advise owners/users of the latest **mandatory** requirements for maintaining Asplundh manufactured aerial devices.

DANGER!: FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THESE MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

- locate all owners of Asplundh aerial devices to update our records.
- remind owners/users of the support available by way of the latest manuals, bulletins and other information needed to maintain and safely operate Asplundh aerial devices.
- remind those associated with aerial devices as to their respective responsibilities

MANDATORY RETIREMENT AND MANDATORY REBUILD

DANGER! : Many of the early models of Asplundh aerial devices are well over 25 years of age and have exceeded a reasonable safe and useful working life and either should be destroyed or otherwise rendered inoperative. These units can no longer be supported with factory parts, manuals or other services. ALL UNITS BUILT PRIOR TO 1975 SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE IMMEDIATELY. The age of a unit is determined from the first two digits of serial number and not by the age of the chassis.

In addition to the other specific recommendations that follow, **all units must be completely rebuilt at 15 years of age or less or be removed from service.** This must include a thorough inspection and overhaul performed by trained and qualified aerial lift mechanics using factory replacement parts. Currently, factory replacement parts are available from Altec Industries, Inc. **This requirement is in addition to any manufacturer's recommendation for interim periodic inspections, maintenance, rebuilding or replacement of components.** All units requiring mandatory rebuilds must be rebuilt within 12 months of the date of this bulletin

MANDATORY CABLE INSPECTION AND REPLACEMENT

DANGER!: ALL UPPER BOOM OPERATING CABLES MUST BE REPLACED EVERY TWO YEARS.

All upper boom operating cables must be replaced every two years. Our findings reveal that cable failures have been consistent with general overloading and abuse as well as failure to properly inspect and replace the cables according to recommended procedures. Although no one can guarantee that installing new cables every two years will eliminate all failures, we firmly believe that the incidence of failures will be greatly reduced. Two year replacement will not eliminate the need for regular interim inspections for wire breakage in accordance with the owner's manual, operating instructions and all prior bulletins.

WARNING!: All units requiring cable replacement must have the cables replaced within 90 days of the date of this bulletin provided that a daily visual inspection of the cables is done between the date of this bulletin and the date of replacement, in accordance with the manual. Should any wire breaks be noted during the inspection, the unit must be taken out of service immediately.

Whenever cables are replaced, careful inspection must also be given to the outer pivot sheave for dimensional integrity, condition of the grooves, tread diameter and finish as well as alignment with the operating cylinders. All discrepancies due to wear or damage must be corrected. Practices that cause premature failures such as overloading and lack of maintenance must be avoided.

HYDRAULIC CYLINDER MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION

DANGER!: FAILURE TO PROPERLY INSPECT, MAINTAIN, REPAIR OR REPLACE CYLINDERS CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

The hydraulic cylinder is a critical structural component of the aerial device which must be properly inspected and maintained to avoid catastrophic failure and free fall of the boom. It is imperative that appropriate periodic inspection in accordance with the owner's and maintenance manuals be accomplished and that any necessary or recommended maintenance, repair, rebuilding or replacement be done. **FAILURE TO PROPERLY INSPECT, MAINTAIN, REPAIR OR REPLACE CYLINDERS CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

DANGER! Any time a hydraulic cylinder is drained, removed and repaired or replaced, **it must be refilled with hydraulic oil and tested by cycling the booms from the lower controls to fill the cylinders with hydraulic fluid. The upper boom must be cycled by raising and lowering the boom three cycles through 45 degrees of travel off the boom rest to insure filling the top cylinder of the boom.** If an aerial device is operated with an uncharged or improperly charged cylinder **DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY** will result from a free fall of the booms.

OWNERSHIP RECORDS

Many of the older units have been difficult to locate because they have been retired or sold by the original owner. If a unit has been sold, we must identify the current owners in order to pass on critical information regarding updated manuals, warnings, service and product bulletins and new repair and maintenance advisories as they become available.

If our records indicate that you are the most recent owner of record, we have attached a list of all of the units currently shown as owned by you. If you no longer own any unit(s) on this list or they have been scrapped, we must have the name and address of the purchaser to whom they were sold so that we may make direct contact with the new owner for this and future mailings, or have a record of the unit's destruction. A self-addressed mailer is included with the list for you to provide us with the above information. The correct Lift Model Number and Serial Number is located on the equipment nameplate, which customarily mounted on the turntable. Please return the mailer by U. S. Mail or by fax to Asplundh Unit Identification Program, 12580 E. Lynchburg Salem Turnpike, Forest, Virginia 24551-9725, Fax number 1-804-534-9686.

It is of vital importance that current owners receive this bulletin and all future safety related information.

MANUALS

In compliance with the ANSI-A92.2-1990 Standard, we have available separate **Operators Manuals** for both personnel and material handling units. We are making these available at cost and we strongly suggest that you use the enclosed order sheet to order the number of copies you need.

Parts and Maintenance and Repair Manuals are essential to safe maintenance and operation and we strongly suggest that you use the enclosed order sheet to order the latest issue for your Asplundh aerial device in compliance with ANSI A92.2-1990. All specific recommendations contained in this bulletin are to be considered as an addendum and supersede the original manual.

WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTION MARKINGS

Many of the latest operational warning placards that are currently being supplied on new aerial devices were not available at the time older machines were manufactured. In the interest of operator safety, it is our intent as well as a requirement under ANSI A92.2 and OSHA regulations that legible warnings be placed in a conspicuous location on every machine. Sets of these warning labels are included in all manual orders and may also be obtained separately by using the enclosed order sheet.

BULLETINS

A compilation of relevant **Maintenance, Engineering and Product Bulletins** with information not otherwise included in the manuals is also included with all orders of manuals for any specific model or unit and may also be ordered separately by using the enclosed order sheet

ASSISTANCE

It is our desire to locate all Asplundh manufactured aerial devices that are still in use and to share the above information in the interest of safe operation of these units. Please review this information and respond with the enclosed self-addressed mailer. It is imperative that we have your assistance to accomplish this goal.

If you have any questions concerning any of the issues contained in this bulletin, please call the Asplundh Unit Identification Program at 1-800-264-4564.

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