

| P-307 Reference Section | RCDR Topic | RCDR Number |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 10.8.3 | Lifts Over Occupied Structures | 25-031 |

QUESTION

Q: NAVFAC P-307, paragraph 10.8.3 was added in 2025 based on a technical bulletin previously sent to all activities in 2017 alerting personnel to the danger of lifts over occupied facilities. The new requirements require these lifts to be treated as critical lifts unless personnel are relocated out of the fall zone. Provide clarification that if a lift takes place over a structure which provides protection of personnel against a potentially dropped load is the lift still classified a critical lift in accordance with paragraph 10.4.1 of reference (a)?

ANSWER

A: In general, lifts over occupied structures should be avoided and activities shall check with local safety representatives for any specific restrictions. A structure may provide protection from personnel from a potential dropped load. There are many factors to consider when assessing a structure to determine if protection is provided to personnel from a potentially dropped load, such as the type of structure, the weight of the load, height of the load, and the number of floors or amount of structure between the load and occupied spaces. A standard building roof may provide adequate protection against a small pallet of shingles falling on a roof, but may not provide protection from a large air handler at the same height. Similarly, Navy vessels that are designed for battle use have a higher structural integrity than the pilot house on a tug boat.

In instances where the structure is specifically designed or can be proven by analysis to protect personnel within from a dropped load (e.g. submarine hulls, aircraft carrier flight decks, reinforced barge decks), the lift need not be classified as a critical lift. Each lift or series of lifts will need to be assessed individually based on the structure and the weight and height of the load as some structures may only provide protection for lower weight/height objects.