

One of the last steps in servicing a hoist is to apply the labels or safety decals on the outside of the hoist. Labels are installed to help insure that all operators have the opportunity to gain information about the safe operation of the hoist.

The labels on the outside of a Power Climber hoist explain the basics of daily operation, safety checklists and emergency operation. Labels are not substitute for hands on instruction. They serve as reminders to the instruction received from a competent person.

As a mechanic, when I serviced a hoist I tried to maintain the highest level of service at all times. Included in this service was making sure that all of hoist's labels were in good condition and placed where they needed to be. Only after the hoist had been completely serviced and/or thoroughly inspected were the labels were applied.

In order to make sure that the labels were applied in the right positions I consulted the hoist manual.

Labels are the finishing touch to a job well done. They also complete the work of insuring that every operator can safely operate the equipment in their possession.

### What makes up a label?

Labels are made to very exacting specifications for use on UL (Underwriters Laboratories) listed traction hoists. There is a complete UL standard that applies to the labeling and markings of equipment that is to be used outdoors.

The standard that Power Climber must follow to be in compliance with our UL agreement is UL969.

UL969 specifies some of the following items:

- The degree to which the label must resist ultra-violet light. This is so that the label does not fade in a particular period of time.
- The amount of moisture that the label has to be able to endure. This ensures that the label will not peel off or otherwise degrade due to rain or humidity.
- Depending on the instruction message being presented, certain color backgrounds, text color, text size and text position are required.

According to our agreement with UL, use of the UL trademark is monitored and strictly regulated. Any label bearing this mark can only be installed at the time of original manufacture. We have only a few vendors that are able to print this trademark logo and they are listed with UL.

### Labels Change

From time to time labels must be changed to accurately reflect product changes. Sometimes changes might be minor in appearance but may be quite significant in their wording or procedure.

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Considering all that goes into the process of creating labels that help to insure operator safety, Power Climber states that labels should never be substituted for reprinted versions.

The use of reprinted or copied labels can open your company to liability if an incident occurs for two main reasons.

Reason number one is that the practice of reprinting your own labels could leave you without the most current label to install on your hoist. If changes happen to be made to the label that you are reprinting and you are unaware of these changes, you are not providing your customer with the most current instructions. Depending on the change that might have taken place with the label or the hoist, this could be disastrous.

Reason number two is that in our lawsuit happy society it goes to "normal practice." How would you answer this question if confronted with a deposition or lawsuit: "Is it your normal practice to make substitutions to what the manufacturer requires when working on or servicing this equipment?" The answer of "yes" to this question could potentially cost your company a lot of money.

Many companies have strict policies against reprinting any label issued by a manufacturer to help protect them against liability. If you are unsure about your company's policy on this topic, consult with your safety officer or owner of the company before going it alone on this decision.

## Who prints labels?

During a short informal study, I called several nationally known copy stores and asked them a few questions. Below are the questions and the answers.

### Q. Can you print labels?

A. Yes.

### Q. Can you print labels to the UL standard 969?

A. What is that? I have never heard of it.

### Q. Can you insure that the labels you print will not fade in sunlight, peel off in humid areas and will comply with the color requirements and text sizing requirements of a label, if I supply it to you?

A. Well we have several colors to choose from for background material and all of the text must be black. We only have certain sizes that you can use to print these labels on. They are stock sizes.

### Q. Therefore if I want a special size or a special size someone will have to cut it out for me? Is that an extra charge?

A. Yes we would have to cut it out for you and it would be an hourly rate for cutting.

My conclusion after this exercise is that even if I could get one of these companies to make a label for me, it would be more hassle than it was worth. Unless I wanted to cut out my own labels, I would be stuck with their hourly charge.

## Did You Know?

- In the front of the parts price list is a list of commonly used exterior labels. This list is categorized by hoist. If you need this list or a parts price list, just call Power Climber. 1-800-560-2546.
- Power Climber builds hoist covers that can protect labels from damage. This lowers the need to replace labels and can save you a lot of money.

## Tips and Tricks

- Using a black magic marker over the raised lettering on aluminum cast parts makes this lettering easier to read and only takes seconds.
- Using silicone sealant from an aerosol can save you money and give you the right amount without having to deal with the hassles of caulking tube styles.

For questions or comments, contact Customer Service at 1-800-560-CLIMB (2546) or [customerservice@safeworks.com](mailto:customerservice@safeworks.com).