

SAFE USE OF MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORMS (MEWPS)

1. Introduction

To minimise the risk of injury from the inappropriate use of MEWPS, the following rules shall apply to the operation of such equipment on the AWL site and at off site locations under AWL control. The following types of MEWP are covered by this instruction:

- Vehicle mounted, articulated and telescopic booms
- Self propelled articulated and telescopic booms
- Scissor lift platforms
- Trailer mounted articulated and telescopic booms
- Other combinations of the above

2. Training

All operators shall be adequately trained in the safe operation of the machine they are using and shall have a valid certificate of training.

The driving of MEWPS on the public highway is subject to Regulations made under the Road Traffic Acts. The main requirement is that operators shall be in possession of a current driving licence for the class of vehicle in question.

Additionally on the AWL site no persons under the age of 18 shall be allowed to operate MEWPS.

3. Rules For Safe Operation

All operators shall comply with the following rules:

- AWL employees shall gain authorisation to use a MEWP from their supervisor. All such work shall be risk assessed in accordance with Core Instruction HSE1.2 before authorisation can be granted.
- Contractors shall gain authorisation to use a MEWP by completing a WA3413 (Contractors risk assessment form) with the Site Facilities Project Engineer, or Maintenance Supervisor in accordance with HSP2050.
- Before use the following checks shall be carried out and recorded:
 - Tyre pressures and wheel nuts
 - Fuel, water, oil, hydraulic fluid and batteries
 - Warning devices
 - Machine structure for visible defects
 - Leaks
 - Brakes and steering
 - All operation controls
- The requirement to wear a safety harness (work restraint or fall arrest), shall be assessed in accordance with paragraph 4 of this instruction.
- Observe all safety signs
- Follow the manufactures' instructions and at no time attempt to operate the machine beyond its recommended limits
- Ensure the MEWP is suitable for travelling over the ground conditions found on the site
- Before travelling operators shall ensure that there are no ramps, trenches, slopes, manhole covers, ground obstructions, overhead cables, building projections or other obstacles, which may present a danger

- Ensure that the Safe Working Load (SWL) of the machine is known and is not exceeded.
- The SWL includes the weight of all persons, tools, equipment, hoses, cables and materials.
- DO NOT USE A MEWP AS A CRANE.
- Ensure the ground conditions are suitable and that if the MEWP is equipped with outriggers, these shall be used as recommended by the manufacturer
- Ensure adequate warnings signs are in place to warn persons approaching the work area of the danger and that barriers are erected to prevent unauthorised access under the platform or into the danger area.
- If moving the MEWP whilst in an elevated position a competent person shall be in place at ground level to give directions
- MEWPs are to be charged in accordance with the requirements of HSP2020, using recognised charging points and ensuring cables do not create a trip hazard for others using or transiting the charging area

Note: Extension leads must be fully uncoiled during charging

4. Assessing the need for work restraint or fall arrest systems

It shall be a requirement that all operators working within the cage of any boom operated MEWP shall wear a work restraint system that prevents them from moving into a position from where a fall is possible. In exceptional circumstances where the method of work makes this practice unreasonable a fall arrest system shall be used. This practice shall only be permitted if a safe method of rescue is also in place.