



Property, Development & Retail Management

Use of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms

Mandatory - January 2014



Landsec
One Best
Way



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Essential information about our Health & Safety Standards.

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Use of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms

Overview

To ensure all work instructed on behalf of Landsec, or within Landsec properties, where MEWPs are used is undertaken as safely as possible; protecting the operatives, occupiers and members of the public. Typical examples of MEWPs are:

- Vertical 'scissor' lift
- Self-propelled boom
- Vehicle-mounted boom
- Trailer-mounted boom

Initial considerations

Before deciding upon the use of MEWPs for high level access the following points should be considered:

1. Is there an alternative to working at height?
2. Can the requirement to work at height be reduced in the scope of works?
3. Is there an alternative method of access, which reduces overall risk?
4. Consider the environment and location?

Training Requirements

Operators

Work at height training (including practical element) IPAF PAL, CPCs, or equivalent, specific to the category of MEWP to be used e.g. 3b – self-propelled boom. (IPAF PAL + to be recommended for higher risk tasks such as netters and steel erectors).

- Safety Harness training - min half day
- On site familiarisation of the particular machine
- Site Induction





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Supervisors/Managers

In addition to suitable supervisory qualifications such as IOSH Managing Safely, anyone who plans work involving MEWPs should attend a MEWPS for Managers course to determine and select the appropriate category of MEWP for a given task.

Planning

The following factors should all be considered and addressed prior to work commencing:

- The nature and complexity of the task
- Access restrictions – such as fixed overhead obstructions (e.g. steelwork) or live electrics.
- Ground conditions such as terrain – slopes, mud etc. – and load bearing capacity. (The International Powered Access Federation – IPAF – website has a “Spreader Plate Ready Reckoner” tool: www.ipaf.org/en/resources/spreader-plates-campaign/)
- The people, equipment and load to be lifted Height and outreach required
- Weather conditions – particularly wind and wind tunnel effects when working within partially enclosed areas.
- Segregation of work area to protect pedestrians and others – see photos of good segregation measures below:





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- Emergency rescue arrangements
 - The emergency and rescue plan should identify nominated, trained, site based personnel who would be available to lower the work platform using the control panel or emergency descent system situated at ground level. The plan should be practised at regular intervals.
- Maintenance and Inspection of the MEWP to be used, including Thorough Examination at least every 6 months by a competent person. In addition inspection records of pre use and after use checks must be carried out.
- Storage - Wherever possible, keep MEWPs in a secure compound or in a designated area with the engine or motor switched off, the working platform lowered to its parking position and the brakes applied. If it has to be parked on a gradient, the wheels should be chocked.
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- Storage - Wherever possible, keep MEWPs in a secure compound or in a designated area with the engine or motor switched off, the working platform lowered to its parking position and the brakes applied. If it has to be parked on a gradient, the wheels should be chocked.
- Entrapment – where the operative within the cradle is crushed between the cradle and a fixed object such as an overhead beam or roof. A frequent cause is involuntary movement of Page 3 of 3 the cradle towards the fixed obstacle by the operative who may have become incapacitated and fallen on the controls, or has panicked and continued to move the cradle towards the obstacle.
- “Secondary Guarding” (sometimes known as “Anti-Entrapment”) devices are available to prevent such involuntary movement towards an obstacle. There are a variety of devices available ranging from fixed guarding of the platform to pressure sensor devices. The contractor planning the work shall determine – via risk assessment – which device is appropriate. Secondary guarding should always be implemented unless the risk assessment shows that such a device will introduce a greater risk to the task.

Specific Risks and Control Measures

There are some risks which may be heightened when working from a MEWP:

- Instability leading to Overturning or collapsing of the MEWP - The person in control of the site should supply relevant information about the ground bearing capacity, terrain, gradient, base area and load bearing capability of supporting structures. Outriggers should be deployed appropriately; whether conditions monitored and basket not overloaded.
- Falling from the Basket - The preferred control measure is to stop the person falling from the work platform by using a work restraint system. A work restraint system should normally consist of a full-body harness (BS EN 361) with a lanyard (BS EN 354) to provide work restraint. From the anchor point, the lanyard length should be short enough to prevent a person reaching a position where they could fall.



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- Lifting and Handling of Materials – where materials carried within the platform either fall to the ground or cause instability within the machine causing it to fall/collapse.
- Where materials are to be lifted to height a specific risk assessment will be undertaken to determine the quantity of material, which can be raised/lowered safely. Where a material extends beyond the confines of the basket, it should be secured by a compatible handling device approved by the manufacturer or supplier. See photos of good handling devices below:

Action to be taken:

TBA

Status:

Mandatory

Further help & contacts:

If you need any further information or guidance please contact any member of the Health & Safety Team.



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