

TCA Lifting is a leading supplier of specialist MEWPs / Spider access platforms and promoting the safe use of MEWPs is an integral and essential part of its business. The following is a broad outline of our policies relating to this equipment.

MEWP selection

- The MEWP selected meets the specification for the task and site conditions and will be selected for use or hire following a site survey by a competent person.
- If the available MEWP is not as originally specified the competent person controlling its use will need to ensure that the operator is qualified and has been familiarised on the specific machine. Emergency rescue plans will also need to be amended to suit any changes to the specification.

Safe systems of work

- Site / task specific risk assessments and method statements are in place and reviewed regularly. This applies to work on our own site and those of our customers.
- Operations and site conditions including assessment of ground, weather conditions and adjacent activities are continuously monitored and, where appropriate, remedial action is taken by a competent person to ensure the safe operation of the MEWP.
- Safety harness & adjustable restraint lanyard to be used in all boom type MEWPs.
- That a system is in place to prevent the unauthorised use of machines.
- Ensure spreader pads of an appropriate size are used under outriggers or wheels to reduce point loads to an acceptable level. NB: Information on acceptable ground loading can be sought from architects or building engineers. Where information isn't available loads should be reduced to a minimum and tests carried out from the ground controls prior to operating from the platform/basket.
- Monitor weather conditions to ensure that the MEWP is not used in excessive wind conditions and that no MEWPs are used during electrical storms,

Emergency and recovery plans

- Before any work at height using a MEWP ensure that a recovery plan is in place including:
- The consideration of lone workers.
- The nomination of a person for performing a recovery.
- Communication of the plan to all personnel included in the plan.
- Regular practice of the plan by those involved.



Supervisor and operator competence

- The person responsible for planning the works, specifying the MEWP and controlling the works be qualified with the CPCS Appointed Person or Supervisor qualification or have undertaken the IPAF “MEWPS for Management” training course.
- The operator of the MEWP shall hold, as a minimum, the CPCS or IPAF qualification for the appropriate category of MEWP. Unless the operator can demonstrate experience of the particular machine i.e. logs books they must undergo familiarisation of the machine prior to use.
- For high risk trades (e.g. steel erectors or safety netters) it is recommended that they hold the IPAF PAL+ qualification in addition to the standard IPAF operator qualification.

Inspection and maintenance:

- A competent person is responsible for ensuring the MEWP is suitable for the specific operation.
- A competent person performs pre-use /daily inspections weekly and statutory inspections.
- MEWPs must undergo a Thorough Examination at least every six months and evidence of the inspection should with the MEWP and checked before use.
- That the weekly and statutory inspections are recorded.
- That the MEWP is maintained in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions.
- A competent person ensures the MEWP is identified & prevented from use in the event of defects or malfunctions and this is recorded.

References:

HSE The selection, management and use of mobile elevating work platforms (GiS6)
BS8460:2017 British Standard, Code of Practice, Safe use of MEWPs



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