

# Minimum standard of training

Before operators start using MEWPs, training must be provided about its functions and any current safe work methods and emergency procedures.

SafeWork SA has developed the following minimum standard of training expected for workers who operate Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs)

Although the majority of MEWPs are used in construction, this information applies to all industries to ensure the minimum standard of training is being met.

## Minimum standard

The minimum standard consists of specific criteria that must be addressed to satisfy the five elements below.

1. Plant identification
2. Hazard identification and control
3. Pre and post-start inspections
4. Safe general use
5. Shutdown and post-use inspection

*Refer to Checklist: MEWP minimum standards of Training.*

## Operator Training

Before a worker can operate a MEWP of any type they must be appropriately trained and competent on each type of MEWP to be used.

Nationally recognised training is available from Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) for the various types of MEWPs, including boom-type, scissor and trailer mounted.

A Statement of Attainment for High Risk Work Licence (class WP) training from an RTO is acceptable as proof of training for the operation of a boom-type MEWP.

For a boom-type MEWP, where the boom length is 11 metres or more, the operator must hold a High Risk Work Licence.

The boom length is the greater of:

- the vertical distance from the surface supporting the boom-type MEWP to the floor of the platform, with the platform extended to its maximum height or
- the horizontal distance from the centre point of the boom's rotation to the outer edge of the platform, with the platform extended to its maximum reach.

Records of training and operator competency need to be maintained.

Hirers of equipment need to ensure they provide all relevant safety information and should obtain or record verification of operator competency before hiring an MEWP.

For experienced MEWP operators without evidence of training, an alternative could be to arrange a registered training provider to confirm knowledge.

## Familiarisation training

When operating models different to those used in the training and assessment, the operator should be provided with familiarisation training on the specific MEWP they will be operating due to the design differences between manufacturers and even models by the same manufacturer.

The operator must also be supervised during the training period until they are deemed competent to operate the MEWP.

Training must also be given to other workers within the MEWP e.g. harness use, emergency procedures, overhead structures etc.

Operators should also receive regular refresher training that covers the minimum standard set out in this document.

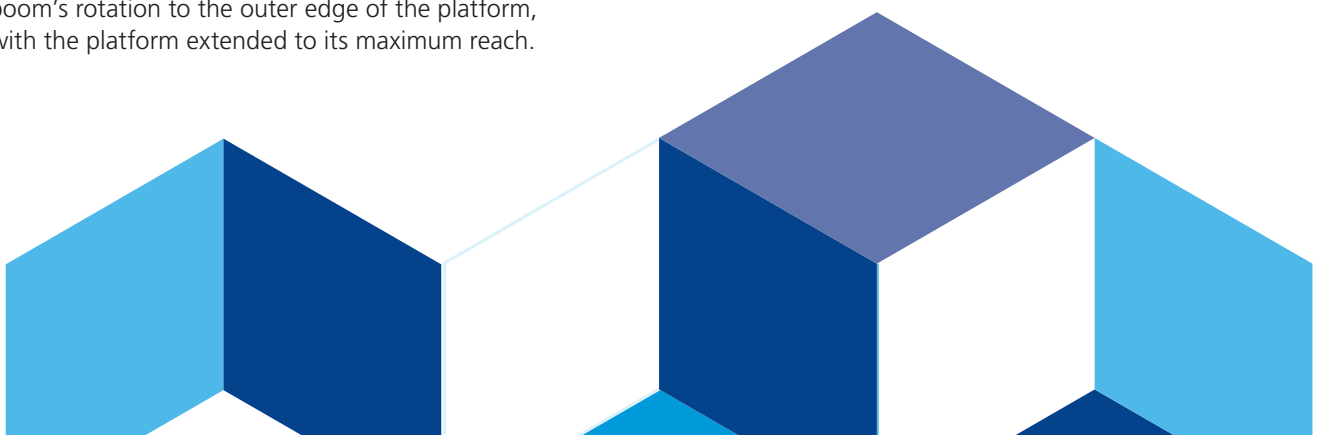
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## Supervision

A PCBU must put in place arrangements for ensuring that a MEWP is used in accordance with safe work procedures by ensuring adequate supervision and monitoring by a nominated competent person.

The use of MEWPs during high risk construction work requires the implementation of a safe work method statement (SWMS) that describes how the control measures are to be monitored.

The person supervising the work activity must ensure there are clear lines of sight and communication while the MEWP is being operated, to enable the warning of potential hazards.



# Checklist: MEWP minimum standard of training

Any worker operating an Mobile elevating Work Platform (MEWP) should be able to demonstrate knowledge of all the criteria in this checklist. This criteria can be used as a guide when identifying hazards and developing a safe work method (SWMS) for high risk construction work.

## Plant identification

The worker knows how to identify and, where applicable, understands key features of the MEWP they are required to use, including:

- access point
- the operational controls
- the location of the MEWP logbook
- any safe operating procedures
- any safety-related signage and bunting
- any safety or emergency devices (i.e. emergency descent controls).

## Hazard identification and control

The worker can demonstrate that they have considered any hazards, and the associated risks at the workplace, for example:

- condition of the terrain/operating surface
- ground bearing pressure
- restricted working space
- overhead hazards
- crush and entrapment hazards
- proximity of powerlines and structures
- underground services
- weather conditions
- working height and reach of MEWP
- type, mass and dimensions of loads to be elevated
- access/egress at height
- other people, vehicles or plant in the area
- adequate ventilation in the area where the MEWP is to be used.

## Safe general use

The worker:

- understands the hazards and risks associated with the MEWP (e.g. stability, brakes, turning circle etc)
- knows how to safely operate the MEWP, including mobilisation, operation and retraction
- knows the location of all emergency descent controls and understands how to use them
- knows how to position the MEWP to ensure access to the emergency descent controls is not obstructed
- identifies support personnel who will provide line of sight from the ground, and have an agreed system for communication
- understands how to set up exclusion zones
- understands their responsibilities to other workers in the MEWP
- knows when a harness is required and how to inspect and ensure it's correct fitting

- understands the safe work method procedure, or iSWMS requirements when using the MEWP for construction work
- understands the PCBU's emergency rescue procedure.

## Pre and post-start inspections

The worker knows how to:

- identify and control the hazards related to the operation of the MEWP they are using
- identify and control hazards associated with the work task and location
- identify hazards where the assistance of support personnel is required (i.e. line of sight of the MEWP and a system of communication)
- identify any reasonably foreseeable emergency that could arise and plan rescue arrangements
- conduct a pre-start visual inspection of the MEWP for signs of damage before starting it up
- ensure all associated safety equipment (i.e. harness and lanyard) is fit for purpose, and undertake a visual inspection for signs of damage before commencing work
- check the MEWP's log book to ensure that the MEWP has been routinely inspected and serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and that there are no outstanding faults or defects (e.g. cracked welds, corrosion, in-operable controls, unclear control panel labelling, deformed structure components, fluid leaks, damaged or defective tyres, harness and attachment point damage)
- operate and is familiar with the control panel and full functions of the MEWP
- correctly set up outriggers, including selection and use of pads
- check the control panel is fully operational by conducting a full range of trial movements
- check to ensure that all warning devices and braking and operational systems are fully functional
- accurately complete the MEWP's logbook, including the identification of any faults or defects (where found)
- where necessary, take action to tag out faulty equipment or the MEWP and report its failed pre operation inspection.

## Shutdown and post-use inspection

The worker knows how to:

- shut down, retract and secure the MEWP
- conduct a post-use inspection, including the identification and recording of any new faults and defects in the MEWP's log book
- report any defects and faults, and to whom
- where necessary, take action to tag out equipment or the MEWP if faults are identified during shutdown and post-use inspection.