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MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM COURSE MANUAL

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STACKERS TRAINING LTD

OPERATORS SAFETY GUIDE – Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWP)

➤ H.A.S.A.W. 1974

- **The Employer has a responsibility to provide:**
 - Information
 - Instruction
 - Training
 - Supervision
- The Employer under the H.A.S.A.W. 1974 is responsible for the unsafe actions of the employee during the operation of a MEWP.
- **The Employee has a responsibility to:**
 - Take a reasonable amount of care of themselves and others who may be affected by their acts or omissions.
 - To co-operate fully with management and other persons in all matters relating to health, safety and welfare.
 - To correctly use all work items and not to interfere with or recklessly misuse anything.

➤ **The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)** requires that adequate health and safety information and written instructions are provided.

➤ A MEWP may only be used/operated by a trained operator.

➤ The employer and the operator are responsible for the safe use and operation of a MEWP.

➤ Rough terrain machines can be elevated safely on uneven ground only if permitted by the manufacturer.

➤ **Basic types of MEWPS:**

- Scissor lifts
- Telescopic Booms
- Articulated/Telescopic Boom

May be either:

- Towable units
- (Trailer mount)
- Self propelled boom
- Vehicle mounted
- Vertical personnel platform

➤ **A Scissor Lift Work Platform**

- Vertical lift only may be fitted with outriggers depending on size and height to which it extends.
- The elevated drive speed may also be checked while standing on the platform.

➤ **A Telescopic Work Platform**

- Gives vertical height and outreach.
- Platform may also be manoeuvrable (rotates 360 degrees)

➤ **Articulated Work Platform**

- Self propelled boom.
- When elevated this type can reach up and over an obstruction.

➤ **Articulated and Telescopic Boom**

These are specialist types of machines, ie, they can be used to inspect the underside of bridges or tunnels.

➤ **Vertical Personnel Platform**

➤ **Trailer Mounted Machine**

- Check with the operators manual for the correct set up of the machine.
- Outriggers or stabilisers must be deployed when fitted to a machine as specified by the manufacturer.
- Make sure that the machine is level and check the ground conditions are satisfactory.

➤ **Unstable Platform**

- If when elevated the platform feels unstable, lower and identify the reason.
- If, for any reason, the platform becomes damaged then isolate from the workplace, tag it and report it to the supplier or your supervisor.

➤ **PrEN 280 European Standard** requires traditional scissor guards or warning system if the minimum clearances are not obtained (50mm minimum).

➤ **Main duties of the Operator**

- Operate machine safely and without risk.
- Operate machine in compliance with manufacturer's instructions.

- Ensure machine remains stable and safe when in use, if the tilt sensor activates come down immediately and investigate.
- Never abuse, ignore or override any limit switches/safety switches.

➤ **Safety Checks**

- Check for overhead hazards/obstructions.
- Be sure the ground conditions are satisfactory.
- No cellars or drains beneath (weight of machine)
- Signs and barriers erected.
- Work within reach of unit (do no lean out of the cage).
- If movement is planned (make sure you walk the route).

➤ **Operating Envelopes**

- Work within the specified reach of the unit as per the manufacturer's instructions.

➤ **Safety Harness and Hard Hats**

- Hard hats must be worn.
- NEVER attach a safety harness to anything outside the platform. It MUST be secured to the anchorage point within the cage/platform.

➤ **Fall Protection**

STACKERS strongly recommend the use of a full body harness by users of MEWP's, where appropriate it should be attached by means of a lanyard to a suitable anchorage point within the platform.

➤ **Causes of Overturning**

- Collapse of standing area.
- Overloading of platform.
- Operating on slopes.
- Travelling with outriggers.
- Collisions with other vehicles

Maximum safe gradient as specified in machine manual.

➤ **S.W.L. of machines with cantilevers**

The SWL consists of equipment, persons and tools in the cage/platform (decals).

➤ **Wind Speed**

- Most common specified maximum wind speed for operation of MEWP = 30 mph.
- CHECK with the manufacturer's specifications.
- Wind speed may be 50% greater at 20m above ground.

➤ **Recommended Safe Machine Clearances**

- Steel Pylon (high voltage) – 15 metres with fully extended boom.
- Wooden Pylon (low voltage) – 9 metres with fully extended boom.

➤ **Travelling in Operational Mode**

- No ramps, holes, etc.
- Overhead hazards
- Adequate warnings.
- Signaller used if required.
- Everything secure.
- No trailing hazards.
- Safe method of operation should be applied at all times.

➤ **Platform Height**

Do not use steps or ladders to gain extra height while working in the platform, it may be necessary to get a larger machine.

➤ **Prohibited Uses**

Your work platform is not a crane. Do not use it to lift materials to the workplace.

➤ **Daily Inspection for the Operator.**

- Tyres and tyre pressures
- Wheel nuts
- Fuel/Bi-energy
- Water
- Engine Oil
- Hydraulic fluid levels
- Battery levels
- Lights
- Warning instruments
- Structure for visible defects
- Hose connections/leaks
- Brakes
- Steering
- All operational/safety systems