

GUIDANCE ON BUYING A PRE-OWNED MEWP



INTRODUCTION

Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) provide a safe means for people to conduct temporary work at height. When buying a pre-owned MEWP, it must comply to the safety legislation and meet the relevant standards in the location where it will be operating before it can be used. Every MEWP must be supplied in a safe working condition, with all safety devices functional.

LEGISLATION

Each country has safety legislation and standards that relate to the use of MEWPs. These will typically cover:

- The design and manufacture of the MEWP and whether it can be sold or otherwise supplied for use in that country (applicable if importing a MEWP from another country);
- requirement to supply equipment in a safe working condition;
- providing a safe worksite.

Other relevant legislation may include:

- Occupational health & safety laws;
- machinery directives;
- road traffic/highways laws (for vehicle-mounted MEWPs);
- engine emission directives/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards;
- standards covering the design, testing and operational requirements of MEWPs;
- codes of practice.

This means in practice that:

- Suppliers of MEWP must ensure that it meets legal, safety and operational standards;
- employers must ensure all operators have been adequately trained in the safe operation of the MEWP.

DOCUMENTATION

Each MEWP must be supplied along with the following documentation:

- Operator's manual/operating instructions;
- CE declaration of conformity (in Europe);
- Manufacturer Test Report, produced when the machine is manufactured;
- documentation/records of: Modifications, including necessary evidence of conformity to relevant design standards; retrofits; and manufacturer's technical/safety bulletins.

Maintenance records should also be supplied, and should include:

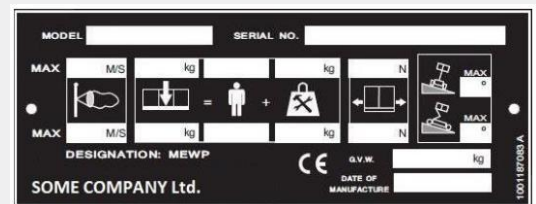
- Maintenance history and related records;
- evidence of periodic inspections (usually six-monthly or annual) records;
- major inspection records.

These records are required to demonstrate the safe working condition of the MEWP.

MANUFACTURER'S COMPLIANCE PLATE AND DECALS

Check that the compliance plate:

- References the standards to which the MEWP conforms (e.g. CE, ANSI, CSA);
- provides the operating limits of the MEWP (e.g. maximum rated load, wind speed, slope).



You must also check that all decals are in place and legible, and in an official language. A list of all decals is typically given in the operator manual, otherwise check with the manufacturer.

REGISTER THE MEWP WITH THE MANUFACTURER

This will enable you to check that all relevant recommended safety updates have been carried out and you are notified of any future updates, warnings or recalls.

CROSS-BORDER PURCHASES

Be aware that MEWP legislation (and standards) may differ significantly from region to region and between countries. For example, an ANSI-compliant machine in the US may not meet the requirements of the European Union.

KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

If you have any doubts about what legislation is applicable in your country, ask the relevant work health & safety authority for advice.

FURTHER READING / GUIDANCE

Guidance for Major Inspections of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms

Available in: [English](#), [Dutch](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#).

