



**Promoting the safe
and effective use of
powered access**



SAFE FIELD SERVICING OF MEWPs TOOLBOX TALK

WHY IS SAFE FIELD SERVICING OF MEWPs IMPORTANT?

Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) field servicing often carries higher risks than workshop servicing. Risks may be increased by:

- Adverse weather;
- Remote or difficult-to-access location;
- Working alone;
- Machine position/configuration/MEWP type;
- Limited space or maneuverability;
- Limited access to tools and equipment;
- Limitation and access to cranes and other support for the task;
- Exposure to worksite hazards (e.g. overhead power lines, vehicle/person traffic, inclement weather conditions).
- Hazardous spills and clean-up;
- Hazards to others.

WHAT ARE THE MACHINES CONCERNED?

All MEWP types may be serviced or inspected.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

For all servicing and inspection tasks you should:

- Be a trained and authorized MEWP Operator.
- Be familiarized and qualified to service the model of MEWP.
- Confirm relevant site contact and location on site.
- Identify potential problems or malfunction prior to departure and have appropriate parts and supplies on the service vehicle.
- Conduct a job-specific local risk assessment before starting and during the task.
- Have a 'lone working procedure' in place if working alone.

DO I NEED TO WEAR ANY SPECIFIC PPE?

- At minimum you must wear your employer's and the site-mandated personal protection equipment (PPE) including personal fall protection equipment (PFPE).

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This Toolbox talk applies to:

- Field service technician supervisor
- User (who has control of the use of the MEWP on site)
- Site manager and MEWP supervisors
- Service Technician

- Wear eye protection and suitable hand protection when checking the power supply (electric or diesel/gas).

HOW DO I CARRY OUT THE FIELD SERVICE?

- Identify and remove hazards and minimize the risks identified in the risk assessment.
- Create an exclusion zone around the machine before starting work.
- Safely remove any liquid spillage (oil, fuel, battery fluid) and hazardous spill site contamination as soon as it occurs to prevent slips or burns.
- If working with electrical systems, disconnect from the mains or batteries until needed for testing.
- Ensure servicing is conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Always use approved maintenance props (cylinder prop, axle stands etc) as required.
- Any access at height or into the machine (especially turret, inner scissor packs, etc) must be further risk assessed.

Do not knowingly put yourself in harm's way

REMEMBER

- Have generic risk assessment and be prepared for known potential hazards and conduct a site-specific risk assessment prior to work.
- Be aware that access to certain areas of a MEWP that need special attention carry extra hazards (i.e., boom turrets or scissor packs).
- Refer to the manufacturer's service manual.
- Stop and get help if you are unsure how to proceed.

USEFUL REFERENCES

- IPAF Technical Guidance –F1 Familiarisation TE-677-0718 (available at www.ipaf.org/resources)
- Manufacturer's Operators / Service Manual (available via www.ipaf.org/en-US/manufacturers)
- IPAF Operators Safety Guide (available on the ePAL app www.ipaf.org/ePAL)