ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

P O Box 8109
Cherrywood
Tauranga, 3145

INDUSTRY GUIDANCE – MEWP SELECTION AND CONTROL MEASURES

Overview:

Selecting the right MEWP for the job is critical to ensuring both safety and efficiency. Each work environment presents unique challenges, and the capabilities and limitations of MEWPs can vary significantly across different types, makes and models. Careful consideration must be given to the task requirements, terrain conditions, load capacities, environmental factors, and machines specifications to ensure the selected MEWP is fit for purpose, compliant with all safety standards, keeping everyone safe.

General considerations before selecting a MEWP for a specific operation

- The task(s) to be performed.
- The intended use as defined by the manufacturer.
- Working height and reach from parked position required.
- Mass and bulk of materials, equipment and tools to be elevated.
- Required size and rated capacity of the platform, including the required number of personnel.
- Wind loading (see below - Wind).
- Wheel and outrigger or stabilizer loadings imparted to the support surface. Can the ground, support loads imposed by the MEWP
- Electrical insulating characteristics.
- Resistance to electromagnetic radiation (see below – Electromagnetic radiation).
- Motive power.
- Environmental considerations, such as exhaust emissions and noise and ambient temperature range (see below – Hazardous conditions).
- The rated chassis inclination of the MEWP.
- Suitability for use on non-level or undulating surfaces (by the ability to level the chassis using outriggers) to within the rated operating slope. NOTE: Consideration should be given to employing MEWPs with two pairs of outriggers on undulating ground surfaces.
- Ability to travel across rough terrain to the work location.
- Ability to work in restricted spaces.
- Tail swing and boom elbow swing.
- MEWP dimensions.
- MEWP mass.
- Outrigger and stabiliser base spread dimension and load.
- Travelling characteristics, e.g. crawler, 4WD or 4WS.
- Crushing against fixed obstructions. NOTE: Where there is a risk that the work platform occupants may be crushed against a fixed structure, the MEWP should be equipped with an effective secondary guarding device.

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Wind

- Only MEWPs designed for outdoor use, i.e. for a wind speed of 12.5 m/s or greater, shall be used in locations where wind may arise.
- An assessment of the likely wind conditions at the proposed location shall be made.
- The wind speed should be monitored. NOTE: The wind speed increases when channeled, for example, between two buildings and through building openings.
- Appropriate measures shall be taken to maintain stability due to increased loading from exposed wind area caused by the carrying of panels or attachment of signs. The wind loading shall not exceed that specified by the manufacturer's instructions or a competent person.

Electromagnetic radiation

- If the MEWP is to be used where there is a high level of electromagnetic radiation, the possible electromagnetic disturbance on the safe operation on the MEWP shall be taken into account.

Hazardous environments

- If a MEWP is to be used in a hazardous environment where flammable or explosive gases or particles are present, only MEWPs designed or designated for use in such environments by the manufacturer's instructions or a competent person shall be used.

Exhaust gas

- A MEWP powered by an internal combustion engine should not be used in a poorly ventilated area. Where a MEWP powered by an internal combustion engine is required to operate in a poorly ventilated area, appropriate control measures shall be taken to minimize the risk (e.g. artificial ventilation or scrubbers)

Sample MEWP Selection Checklist – Guidance Only

Page 3 of this guidance document includes a sample checklist designed to assist in the selection of MEWPs.
Please note:

- This checklist is **not exhaustive** and should not be treated as a definitive resource.
- It is intended as a general **guidance tool** to aid competent persons in the selection process.

All competent persons responsible for selecting MEWPs must consider **all relevant factors** specific to the task and operating environment to ensure the correct MEWP is chosen.

References:

AS2550.10, 3 MEWP selection and control measures

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SAMPLE MEWP SELECTION CHECKUST – TO BE USED AS GUIDANCE ONLY		✓
Task Height		
Reach required		
Up and Over height		
Actual task to be performed		
Can ground support loads imposed by MEWP		
Can MEWP be set close enough to work area		
Number of people required		
Load weight		
Height and outreach	Work is straight up	
	Work requires reach	
	Work is up and over an obstacle	
The Task	Height of task	
	Distance of reach required	
	Size and weight of materials	
The Environment (weather - wind, rain, sunlight glare, fog)	Work is indoors	
	Work is outdoor	
	Work will involve both out and indoors	
	Public roads	
	Work in confined space	
Below, at and above ground conditions and hazards	Floor is strong and level	
	Floor is strong and sloping	
	Floor is firm and uneven	
	Floor is soft/loose and uneven	
	Ground is sandy and loose	
	Ground is potentially weak	
Access	The area is open with easy access	
	There is a height restriction	
	There is a weight restriction	
	There are access roads for delivery vehicle	
	Access roads are narrow or challenging	
	We have a safe area for unloading	
	We intend to off load on the highway	
	We do not have a designated area for unloading	
The MEWP	Maximum weight of MEWP	
	Minimum platform size	
	Number of people required in MEWP	
	Weight of tools and Equipment	
	Is secondary guarding required	
	Are larger materials to be transported	
The People	How many people are required for the operation	
	Are supervisors and operators trained on the specific MEWP	