

## INDUSTRY GUIDANCE – ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND SEVERITY OF USE

### Overview:

The industries and applications in which MEWPs are used vary greatly, and some environmental conditions and the severity of use can adversely impact the safety and reliability of MEWPs. For example, the wear and tear on a MEWP operating indoors in a retail application and used once or twice a week varies greatly from that on a MEWP operating outdoors on a construction site for multiple hours each day.

Therefore, the frequency and types of inspections required to maintain safety and reliability of MEWPs may vary depending on the application, environmental conditions and severity of use.

The following, though not exhaustive, are examples of standard and harsh environments:

- Standard use and environments may include the following:
  - MEWPs used at a single location (not transported).
  - MEWPs used on manmade ground, e.g. concrete, that is well maintained and without cracks or potholes.
  - Periodic but low rate of use, i.e. not every day.
  - MEWPs used and stored in a protected environment.
  - Industries include warehouses, retail, theatre and convention centers, healthcare facilities, and commercial offices.
- Severe use and environments may include the following:
  - MEWPs that are regularly transported on trucks.
  - Vehicle-mounted MEWPs driving significant distances.
  - Vehicle-mounted MEWPs driving on unsealed roads.
  - MEWPs stored outdoors.
  - MEWPs used where high levels of chemicals, salt, sand, mud or other abrasives are present.
  - MEWPs used in high dust environments.
  - MEWPs exposed to corrosive atmospheres.
  - MEWPs used in underground, tunnel, shotcreting or blasting applications.
  - Industries include construction, mining, equipment rental, shipyards, agriculture, and arboriculture.

While not specifically addressed above, consideration should also be given to towable MEWPs. When used on poorly maintained or unsealed surfaces, additional wear may occur, making it important to ensure ongoing compliance with roadworthiness requirements, including current Warrant of Fitness (WoF) and registration where applicable.

Although there is no legal requirement to conduct more frequent inspections or maintenance, we recommend considering the specific working environment of your MEWP. Harsh or demanding conditions may accelerate wear and tear. By performing inspections and maintenance more frequently, you can help ensure the equipment remains in optimal condition, minimizing the risk of downtime and prolonging its reliability, ultimately maximising return on investment (ROI) for fleet and ensuring continued provision of high-quality machinery.

### References:

AS2550.10, Appendix A Environmental conditions and severity of use