

INDUSTRY GUIDANCE – HARNESSES AND SCAFFOLD HOOK USE ON MEWPS

Overview:

The platform guard rail is the primary means of fall protection for all occupants of a MEWP. Where personal fall protection is used, it shall conform to the appropriate parts of AS/(NZS) 1891 and selected in accordance with AS/NZS 1891.4.

Lanyards shall incorporate a personal shock absorber.

A personal fall protection system should be selected according to the work to be performed, the environment, the potential fall height and the platform size. Lanyards shall incorporate, at minimum, a double action mechanism connector. They should be as short as practicable to minimise the risk of ejection or tripping. **Scaffold hooks shall not be used on MEWPs.**

On boom type MEWPs, a personal fall protection system shall be used to arrest or restrain a fall from the platform as a result of ejection. Ejection may occur due to the catapult effect or a component failure, e.g. failure of the platform self-levelling system.

When training on boom-type MEWPs, trainees are instructed to wear a harness and use a lanyard attached to a designated anchor point to maintain restraint within the platform.

Below picture shows the difference between a MEWP and Scaffold hook.



References:

AS2550.10, 5.18 Personal fall protection equipment

Silvercard – Using MEWPs Safely