

INDUSTRY GUIDANCE – UN/LOADING AND SECURING MEWPS FOR TRANSPORT

Overview:

Personnel shall be competent for the purpose of un/loading. MEWPs shall be loaded or unloaded in accordance with the manufacturer's operational instructions. MEWPs should be unloaded in accordance with the recommended orientation of the MEWP, e.g. driven with counterweight pointing towards the top of the loading ramp or tilt tray deck. The capacity of all equipment used shall be adequate for the purpose.

Competent person(s) for Un/loading from Vehicles:

In addition to the requirements of a competent operator, a competent person for un/loading MEWPS from vehicles should:

- Have received specific training on safely un/loading MEWPs, including operating and securing the equipment.
- Be familiar with the MEWP model being loaded or unloaded, including its weight, dimensions, and operating procedures.
- Be able to verify if the MEWP is in a safe condition for transportation.
- Be able to identify potential hazards, such as overheads, uneven surfaces, nearby traffic, or poor weather conditions.
- Be able to operate truck auxiliary equipment where necessary, used for un/loading the MEWP as appropriate e.g. Winch.
- Be able to select and operate items used for securing the MEWP as appropriate e.g. Chains, tie-downs.
- Be familiar with Load Restraint requirements.
- Be able to implement exclusion zones as necessary to keep the MEWP separate from pedestrians, machinery and vehicles.
- Maintain communication with other workers involved in the process to coordinate movements and avoid accidents.
- Be aware of and comply with rules and regulations, such as road rules and weight limits, load securing laws, height restrictions and health and safety standards.
- Be alert and fit for work to handle the demands of un/loading heavy machinery safely.

When a MEWP is loaded onto or unloaded from a vehicle, the following precautions apply:

- Operators are to wear the correct personal protective equipment including a total restraint harness system when un/loading a boomlift and/or any further PPE required by the specific site or company's standard operating procedures.
- MEWP dimensions (height, width, length and weight) shall not exceed the capacity of the vehicle being used to transport the MEWP. Reference shall be made to the MEWP operational instructions and the transport vehicle manual for specifications.
- The transport vehicle and loading ramps shall be adequate for the type of MEWP being transported.
- The maximum slope of the loading ramps, tilt trays or slide beds shall be less than the rated gradeability of the MEWP. NOTE: Traction between the MEWP and the drive surface may also limit the gradient.
- The MEWP should be loaded onto the transporting deck using the assistance of a winch.
- The winch should be connected to the designated attachment points on the MEWP when un/loading. Suitable methods are 'winch and drive' or 'winch and free wheel'.
- Ground conditions (e.g. wet, dry or uneven) in the area being used for un/loading the MEWP shall be assessed and hazards eliminated or minimised.
- The transport vehicle shall be parked on a level surface and the park brake engaged while the MEWP is being loaded or unloaded.

- Control measures to restrict unauthorised access to the un/loading area shall be implemented, such as barriers and marker cones.
- Consideration should be given to ensuring adequate lighting in the un/loading areas. Artificial lighting may be required when working in low light conditions or at night. The use of reflective markers should be also considered.
- The risk of collisions shall be taken into account when un/loading on trafficable areas. A traffic management plan shall be implemented. No part of the MEWP should project into a live traffic lane unless appropriate controls are implemented.
- A spotter should be used wherever possible, especially where visibility is restricted due to the dimensions or configuration of the MEWP.
- A spotter shall be used when un/loading near overhead power lines.
- All loose items and equipment shall be removed from the MEWP prior to un/loading.
- A boom type MEWP shall be loaded with the boom retracted and lowered as far as practicable. The extending structure shall be raised to a height that provides sufficient ground clearance when un/loading. Clear view of the wheels should not be obscured. NOTE: A loss of control (steering or braking) may result if the MEWP wheels lose contact with the supporting surface.

When a MEWP is to be transported on a vehicle, it shall be securely attached to the vehicle to prevent movement during transportation. The MEWP shall be secured in accordance with the recommendations in the MEWP Operators' instructions and reference to relevant legislation and regulatory authorities for restraint guidance that apply to the transport of MEWPs.

Road travel of truck-mounted and trailer-mounted MEWPs shall have "travel locking pins" installed and be in accordance with operating instructions.

When securing a MEWP for transport the following precautions shall be taken, (as applicable):

- Securing loose items to prevent their movement.
- Securely stowing the outriggers and footplates/pads.
- Securing the platform in the stowed position.
- Engaging the slew lock mechanism.
- Securing all door panels, engine covers, access covers and slide out decks against movement.
- Ensuring chains, chain hooks or lashings used to secure the MEWP are in good working order.
- Identifying and using correct anchor points on the transport deck and MEWP. Strops should not be run through or over scissorlift platform toe kick or handrails.
- Taking into account the placement of the MEWP and the weight distribution when one or more items of plant are being transported.
- Personnel shall not occupy the work platform during transportation.

References:

AS2550.10, 1.4.8 Competent person(s) for loading and unloading from vehicles

AS2550.10, 5.9.1 Loading and unloading from vehicles

AS2550.10, 5.9.2 Securing for transport

Worksafe Mobile Elevating Work Platforms Best Practise Guide, 3.2 Transporting MEWPS