

INDUSTRY GUIDANCE – MEWP PLATFORM TO PLATFORM TRANSFER

Overview:

Every MEWP operation shall have a documented rescue plan that identifies the foreseeable emergency situations that may arise and the procedures to safely recover occupants to ground level or another safe area. The rescue plan should consider the most appropriate recovery method for the circumstances, with emergency lowering being the preferred option where it can be carried out safely. Where emergency lowering is not possible or does not provide a safe means of recovery, alternative rescue methods may need to be implemented.

A platform-to-platform transfer maybe necessary as part of a rescue of occupants when emergency lowering cannot safely resolve the situation. It should not be a general use task.

Transfer of occupants to another MEWP while at height shall be undertaken only when the following conditions are satisfied:

- The repair cannot be conducted within a suitable timeframe.
- A site risk assessment is completed.
- A specific plan has been made, including selection and positioning of the MEWPs involved.
- The second MEWP has sufficient rated capacity and size.
- The second MEWP is positioned in a stable location without compromising the safety of personnel involved.
- The work platforms are positioned as close as possible with minimal gaps, with entry gates adjacent where possible. Noting that during transfer the movement and sway of the extending structures may change the gap between the work platforms.
- Both MEWPs are switched off before transfer.
- Personal fall protection equipment is worn and remains connected at all times. Noting, twin tail lanyards may be necessary. Where a twin tail lanyard is used, the two lanyards should not be connected to the same anchor point together. The not-in-use tail should be connected to either the other tail or the harness. Lanyards should not be wrapped around the body or passed between the legs.
- The lanyard is connected to a designated anchorage on the second MEWP before each person which is being transferred.
- The second MEWP is not overloaded or carrying more than the maximum number of occupants

Rescuer competency, communication and rescue planning

A platform-to-platform transfer shall only be undertaken by a competent rescuer as part of a documented rescue plan. The rescuer shall be available whenever the MEWP is in use, be competent in the operation of the MEWP ground controls and auxiliary systems, be familiar with the specific MEWP being used, understand the rescue plan, and be able to identify existing and emerging worksite hazards. Where more than one MEWP is operating, a rescuer may be responsible for multiple MEWPs, provided they can respond effectively if required.

The rescue plan shall be communicated to all personnel who may be involved in the rescue, and all operators, occupants, rescuers, and any support personnel shall receive appropriate instruction and training on the rescue procedures. The rescue plan shall be readily available, periodically tested, and reviewed whenever there are changes to the worksite, hazards, or tasks to ensure it remains effective.

References:

AS2550:10, 2.3.2 Rescuer

As2550.10, 2.3.3 Communication of the rescue plan and instruction

As2550.10, 2.3.4 Training and testing of the plan.

AS2550:10, 2.3.6.2 Platform to platform transfer

AS2550:10, 5.18.12.2 Twin-tail fall arrest lanyards