

INDUSTRY GUIDANCE – USE OF LOAD SUPPORTING ATTACHMENTS

Overview:

A MEWP shall not be fitted with any attachments to the extending structure or work platform unless specifically approved by the manufacturer or a competent person and installed and used in accordance with the instructions.

The combination of the MEWP and its attachment shall conform to AS/NZS1418.10. The following requirements apply to attachments:

- Each attachment shall be marked with an identifier.
- Each attachment shall be provided with instructions for use, precautions during use and a list of the MEWPs to which it can be fitted.
- Each attachment shall be provided with instructions relating to installation, inspection and maintenance.
- Each load supporting attachment shall be marked with its capacity and the modified rated capacity of the MEWP.

A MEWP shall not be used as a device to hoist or support any load in any manner unless specifically rated for that configuration by the manufacturer's instructions or a competent person. MEWPs shall not be used to travel with freely suspended loads.

Prior to use of load supporting attachments, the following shall be taken into account:

- The mass of the attachment and its rated capacity and load limitations on the MEWP.
- The rated capacity of the MEWP, including the rated capacity of each extensions deck. NOTE: Ensure that the rated capacity of the extension deck is sufficient to support the load imposed by the loaded attachment and personnel.
- The effect of wind on the attachment and the load.
- Means of securing the load.
- Methods for handling the load during loading and unloading.
- The size of the load and impact of unevenly distributed loads.
- Impact on the operator's line of vision.
- Interference of the load with work platform controls or the operator.
- Clearance of the load from electrical conductors.
- Clearance of the load from structures.
- The effect of the load and attachment on the stability of the MEWP. NOTE: Attachments that support loads above the guardrails have an adverse effect on stability due to the higher centre of gravity and centre of pressure for wind loading.
- Effects on access and egress, including emergency egress.
- Recovery of the work platform.
- For insulated MEWPs, the impact of the attachment on the insulation rating of the MEWP.

Attachments are considered critical components of the equipment and must undergo regular visual inspections and measurements to ensure their integrity and suitability for continued use. This is essential for maintaining safety, performance, and adherence to maintenance standards.

References:

AS2550.10, 5.14 Attachments on the platform or extending structure
Worksafe Mobile Elevating Work Platforms Best Practise Guide, 5.3 Inspection
AS/NZS1418.10, Attachments