Chapter 47: Mobile Elevating Work Platforms

Operating Requirements

1 Purpose

The purpose of these requirements is to ensure mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) are operated safely. They cover the use of MEWPs. They apply to workers (as operators, spotters, and custodians), and supervisors.

2 Requirements

2.1 Personnel

Only qualified and authorized workers may operate a MEWP.

A person who has been instructed by the operator in the operation of the descent device or is a qualified operator must be designated and in visual or contact range of the MEWP operator to bring the basket or platform down in the event of equipment failure or operator problem.

A spotter, who must be a qualified operator, is required when the MEWP is operating in an area with minimal clearance or where hazards are present. A spotter should be located for the best view and can be on the work platform or on the ground. The spotting function need only be performed during vertical or horizontal movement. The spotter may be the person designated to operate the emergency descent device.

2.2 Pre-use Inspection

Before each shift a pre-use inspection must be conducted (see MEWP: Inspection Procedures).

2.3 Fall Protection

On a vertical-only work platform with guardrails, such as a scissor lift, use of a fall arrest system is not required unless recommended by the manufacturer. In this case, use the manufacturer-installed rated anchorage points within the basket.

Anyone who will be in the basket of a MEWP classified as an aerial device (for example an articulating boom lift) must use an approved fall restraint or arrest system, and the fall restraint must be connected to an approved anchorage point within the basket.
Equipment designed by the manufacturer for exiting at heights must comply with all pertinent regulations and SLAC requirements.

**Important** Wearing fall restraint or arrest equipment does not permit the wearer to climb out of the basket onto another surface, stand on the basket’s railings, or use planks or other unapproved methods to gain higher elevation.

For details on fall protection systems and requirements, see Chapter 45, “Fall Protection”.

### 2.4 Hazard Control

- Assess if electrical hazards are present. A MEWP used near unprotected or exposed electrical systems must be electrically insulated. In addition, work must comply with SLAC electrical work requirements as outlined in Chapter 8, “Electrical Safety”, which includes guidance concerning the limited approach or arc flash boundary. The maximum distance applies.
- Do not use a MEWP during storm conditions of any kind, including high wind, or when equipment or materials are covered with ice or snow.
- Stabilize the MEWP before operating it: ensure that it is on stable, flat, and structurally sound flooring or ground. Unless designed for such use, MEWPs must not be operated on inclined surfaces.
- If traffic is present in the work area, implement traffic control measures such as placing safety cones or barricades or roping the area off.

### 2.5 Proper Use

- Remain inside the protective guardrails of any elevated fixed platform, elevating work platform, or aerial device. Do not sit or stand on railings, or use planks or boards to gain access to a higher elevation or to climb off the MEWP.
- Close the mid and top chains, railing, and gate enclosures before elevating the device.
- Do not exceed the maximum operating weight capacity (including personnel, equipment, supplies, and tools).
- Do not move the MEWP while the basket is elevated and occupied unless the equipment is designed for this activity. Such travel must be conducted in accordance with all applicable regulations and standards.
- Do not use a MEWP as a crane.
- Do not allow unstable objects such as barrels, boxes, loose brick, tools, debris to accumulate on the floor of the MEWP.
- Make sure proper ventilation is provided when operating internal combustion equipment indoors.
- Keep the operator’s manual in a weatherproof container on each MEWP.

### 2.6 Storage / Parking

The person in charge of the MEWP (operator or custodian) must ensure the following:
The MEWP is parked in its designated space. If there is none, the MEWP must be parked away from high traffic areas.

The MEWP is secure and stabilized, as necessary, with the basket positioned to prevent unauthorized access to the basket and controls. During inclement weather the basket must be lowered to prevent damage.

The keys are returned to the MEWP custodian or designated key repository.

3 Forms

The following are forms required by these requirements:

- None

4 Recordkeeping

The following recordkeeping requirements apply for these requirements:

- None

5 References

SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001)

- Chapter 47, “Mobile Elevating Work Platforms”
  
  - MEWP: Inspection Procedures (SLAC-I-730-0A21C-008)

- Chapter 8, “Electrical Safety”

- Chapter 45, “Fall Protection”

Other Documents

- None