

Chapter 47: [Mobile Elevating Work Platforms](#)

## Operating Requirements

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URL: <https://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/eshmanual/references/mewpReqOperating.pdf>

### 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* and *spotters*), *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.

All electrical tests must conform to the requirements of the applicable ANSI standard or equivalent direct current voltage test approved by the equipment manufacturer or an equivalent entity.

- 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. The procedure for maintaining stability must be clearly outlined in the special warnings section and the user must not deviate from the manufacturer's instruction. (See [MEWP: Equipment Requirements](#).)
- If traffic is present in the work area, implement traffic control measures such as placing safety cones or barricades or roping the area off.
- In operations producing small debris and chips or using small tools and materials and where persons are required to work or pass under the equipment, make sure there are screens between the toeboards and guardrails. The screen must extend along the entire opening and consist of No. 18 guage US standard wire with 0.5 inch mesh, or equivalent.

## 2.5 Proper Use

- Assemble, use, and disassemble units following the manufacturer's instructions.
  - If the manufacturer is no longer in business and instructions are no longer available, assembly and erection must be performed by a qualified person under the direction of registered professional engineer experienced in the design of elevating work platforms or aerial devices.
- Position outriggers, when used, on pads or a solid surface. All outriggers must be equipped with hydraulic holding valves or mechanical locks at the outriggers.
- Install wheel chocks, if safe to do so, before using an aerial device on an incline.
- 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 belt to an adjacent pole, structure, or equipment while working from an aerial device.
- Do not support the aerial baskets or platform by adjacent structure(s) when workers are on the platform or in the basket while in an elevated position.
- Do not exceed the maximum operating weight capacity (including personnel, equipment, supplies, and tools).
- When the platform is supporting its rated work load by a system of wire ropes or lift chains, or both, do not use a safety factor of the wire rope or chain system of less than 8 to 1 based on ultimate strength.
- Do not move a 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 travel with the lift in the elevated position. Minor positioning adjustments can be made under the supervision of the spotter.
- 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 No Idling

Diesel-fueled off-road vehicles and equipment, including MEWPs, may not idle for more than five consecutive minutes. The idling limit does not apply to idling

- When queuing
- To verify the vehicle is in safe operating condition, to ensure safe operation of the vehicle, or to bring the machine system to operating temperature;
- For testing, servicing, repairing or diagnostic purposes;
- Necessary to accomplish work for which the vehicle was designed (such as operating a crane).

(See [Chapter 30, "Air Quality"](#).)

## 2.7 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 forms and systems are 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: Equipment Requirements](#) (SLAC-I-730-0A21S-058)
  - [MEWP: Inspection Procedures](#) (SLAC-I-730-0A21C-008)
- [Chapter 8, “Electrical Safety”](#)
- [Chapter 30, “Air Quality”](#)
- [Chapter 45, “Fall Protection”](#)