

MEWP FAMILIARISATION TOOLBOX TALK

WHY IS FAMILIARISATION IMPORTANT?

The mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) may be significantly different than the MEWP the operator was trained on.

Accidents can occur from operating an unfamiliar MEWP, for example by moving the platform in the opposite direction than intended, or by incorrectly setting up the outriggers.

WHAT IS FAMILIARISATION?

Familiarisation is a short activity to make sure that the operator understands how to safely operate the machine to be used.

Familiarisation is **NOT** training – Each operator must be trained for the MEWP category and familiarised on the MEWP to be used.

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW

To use the selected MEWP properly and safely, the familiarisation process should:

- Confirm the operating manual is on the machine;
- Include a review of the machine features, functions, devices, limitations, warnings and operating characteristics of the MEWP;
- Confirm that the nominated ground rescue person knows the position, function and operation of the emergency lowering controls.

Before operating the machine, the operator must:

- Understand the controls
- Know the MEWP working limits
- Understand the emergency descent systems

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This toolbox talk applies to:

- User (who has control of the use of the MEWP on site);
- Site managers and supervisors where MEWPs are in use;
- MEWP operators;
- Nominated ground rescue person.

WHEN IS FAMILIARISATION NEEDED?

Familiarisation is required on any MEWP that is significantly different to the MEWP trained on, including:

- Weight;
- Height;
- Length;
- Complexity – controls, safety systems, overload system, restricted working envelope, etc.

WHAT SHOULD I DO

- Verify that all MEWP operators are trained to operate the category of the MEWP to be used
- Confirm that all MEWP operators are familiarised to operate the MEWP
- Record the familiarisation in the operator's logbook.



USEFUL REFERENCES

- IPAF Technical Guidance – F1 Familiarisation TE-677-0718 (available at www.ipaf.org/resources)
- Manufacturer's Operating Manual
- IPAF Operators Safety Guide