

SAFE ON-SITE SERVICING OF MEWPs TOOLBOX TALK

WHY IS SAFE ON-SITE SERVICING OF MEWPs IMPORTANT?

Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) on-site servicing often carries higher risks than workshop servicing. Risks may be increased by:

- Adverse weather;
- Remote or difficult-to-access location;
- Working alone;
- Machine position/configuration/MEWP type.

WHAT ARE THE MACHINES CONCERNED?

All MEWP types may be serviced or inspected on-site.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

For all servicing and inspection tasks you should:

- be trained and authorised, be familiarised and experienced on the MEWP.
- confirm relevant site contact.
- conduct a job-specific local risk assessment before starting and during the task.
- have a 'lone working procedure' in place if working alone.

DO I NEED TO WEAR ANY SPECIFIC PPE?

- At minimum you must wear your employer's and the site-mandated personal protection equipment (PPE) including personal fall protection equipment (PFPE).
- Wear eye protection and rubber gloves when checking the power supply (electric or diesel/gas).

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This Toolbox talk applies to:

- Field service engineer's supervisor
- User (who has control of the use of the MEWP on site)
- Site manager and supervisors
- Service engineer

HOW DO I CARRY OUT THE ON-SITE SERVICE?

- Remove hazards or minimise the risks identified in the risk assessment.
- Create an exclusion zone around the machine before starting work.
- Safely remove any liquid spillage (oil, fuel, battery fluid) as soon as it occurs to prevent slips or burns.
- If working with electrical systems, disconnect from the mains or batteries until needed for testing.
- Ensure work is conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Always use maintenance props (cylinder prop, axle stands etc) as required.
- Any access at height or into the machine (especially turret, inner scissor packs, etc) must be further risk assessed.

Do not knowingly put yourself in harm's way

REMEMBER

- Properly risk assess the situation. Review the risk assessment as the job changes.
- Be aware that access to certain areas of a MEWP that need special attention carry extra hazards (i.e., boom turrets or scissor packs).
- Refer to the manufacturer's service manual.
- Stop and get help if you are unsure how to proceed.

USEFUL REFERENCES

- IPAF Technical Guidance –F1 Familiarisation TE-677-0718 (available at www.ipaf.org/resources)
- Manufacturer's Operators Manual (available via www.ipaf.org/en/manufacturers)
- IPAF Operators Safety Guide (available on the ePAL app www.ipaf.org/ePAL)