

MCWP LOADING TOOLBOX TALK

WHY IS CONTROL OF LOADING IMPORTANT?

The loading of people and equipment is one of the critical tasks during the operation of MCWP's. Inappropriate loading, overloading or unsecured loads will have an adverse effect on the platform and could lead to serious injury or death of personnel. This Toolbox Talk provides information on the correct loading of MCWP's.

WHEN LOADING A MCWP YOU NEED TO:

Always be aware of the Load Charts and the number of people allowed on the platform.

- Never place and store materials on the extensions. Extensions are intended only for workers and their tools, not for any other extra load.
- The safe working load (SWL) consists of people, tools and materials on the platform.
- The load must be evenly distributed along the platform deck according to manufacturer's instructions and load charts.
- All load chart decals must be legible and maintained in good condition.
- The work area and platform deck should be always kept clean and tidy to minimise the risk of slips, trips and falls occurring.
- Secure any load transported on the platform deck to make sure it remains within the confines of the platform.
- For loads with a large surface area, take into account the effect of wind speed on the load. Consult the manufacturer regarding safe operating wind speeds.
- Care should be taken when loading or unloading the platform to ensure that point loads in excess of those permitted by the MCWP manufacturer are not imposed on the platform. Loads should be uniformly distributed along both sides of the mast where possible.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This toolbox talk applies to:

- User (who has control of the use of the MCWP on site);
- Site managers and supervisors where MCWPs are in use;
- MCWP operators/occupants.

WHEN MOVING LOADS ON A MCWP

- MCWPs in a single mast configuration may be more susceptible to load distribution so pay particular attention to load balancing.
- Never place loads on platform guardrails.
- Materials and/or tools must never protrude beyond the edges of the platform. Materials that may become dislodged must be properly secured.
- The load must not rest or lean onto the guardrails.
- The MCWP should not be used or modified for the transportation of loads which are not confined within the platform or cage.
- MCWPs are not Hoists, people and materials must not be transferred from the work platform to the building.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Inform all personnel on the principles of loading the MCWP and practice transporting loads to different levels.

Anyone involved in the operation of a MCWP must:

- Fully understand the manufacturer's load chart information.
- Know how to secure the loads safely.
- Keep loads within the platform and not transfer to the building.



REMEMBER

**Never place and store materials on the extensions.
Follow manufacturer's load chart.
Take into consideration the wind effect.**

USEFUL REFERENCES

- IPAF MCWP Site Safety Guide (available on the ePAL app www.ipaf.org/ePAL)
- Andy Access 'Don't overload the Platform' poster (available at www.ipaf.org/andyaccess)
- BS7981 Code of practice for the installation, maintenance, thorough examination and safe use of MCWP