



1st October 2012

**All Suppliers, Owners and Users of MEWPs
Authorised Examiners and
Other Interested Parties**

SAFETY CIRCULAR ON SAFE USE OF MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM (MEWP)

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) observed that there has been a rise in the use of Mobile Elevating Work Platform¹ (MEWP) in workplaces, such as construction worksites for construction activities, public buildings and offices for building maintenance activities, cleaning and painting of external façade works, etc. This circular serves as a reminder to duty-holders of their statutory duties under the Workplace Safety and Health Act (WSH Act) with regards to ensuring the safe use of such lifting platforms at workplaces.

Design Codes and Standards

2. All MEWPs for use in Singapore shall be designed in conformance with internationally acceptable design codes and standards. This would include ensuring that the MEWPs are equipped with all the required safety devices and interlocks stipulated by the applicable design codes and standards it is manufactured and constructed to.

Safety Devices

3. It has come to MOM's attention that some safety devices such as safety interlocks and outrigger interlocks installed in MEWPs had been intentionally (1) by-passed or overridden during its operation or (2) dismantled or removed from the MEWPs. MOM warns all parties that such practices are dangerous and unacceptable. MOM reminds all owners of MEWPs and personnel engaged in the use of such equipment that it is an offence under the WSH Act to by-pass or remove such safety devices installed or fitted to the MEWPs. MOM will not hesitate to take stringent enforcement action against any person who wilfully bypass or remove such safety devices from the MEWPs.

¹ Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) includes but not limited to the following equipment: Vertical personnel platforms, Boom lift, Scissor lifts, Truck mounted, etc

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4. Owners of MEWPs are to ensure all safety devices provided by Manufacturers and Suppliers are in good working order and that they are properly maintained to ensure its continual operability and effectiveness. The list of safety devices to be provided on the MEWPs is specified in the Manufacturer's manual which must be supplied by the Supplier together with the MEWPs. In addition, Employers of the MEWP operators are to ensure that all safety devices provided by Manufacturers and Suppliers are in good working order prior to use and that these devices are not by-passed or removed. In addition, for periodic statutory inspection, Authorised Examiners are required to test, examine and certify that all the said safety devices are in place and that they are in good working order.

MEWP Operator Training and Familiarisation Training

5. Regulation 21(12) of the WSH (General Provisions) Regulations, requires that a lifting machine (which includes a MEWP) shall be operated only by trained and competent person. Hence, an operator of an MEWP is required to attend and pass a MEWP training course conducted by a MOM Accredited Training Provider (ATP) specific for the type of MEWP he is operating (e.g. Boom Lift, Scissors Lift and Vertical Personnel Platform etc) prior to operating the MEWP. Details of the courses and ATPs can be found at the following weblink.

<http://www.mom.gov.sg/workplace-safety-health/training/training-courses/Pages/workers.aspx>

6. In addition to the MEWP training course, an operator of a MEWP shall be familiarised with the controls and characteristics of each model of MEWP he is required to operate. Familiarisation training shall be provided to the operator by a Competent Person who is trained and competent in the model of the MEWP.

Stakeholders Responsibilities

7. The relevant statutory duties of the respective stakeholders with respect to the safe use of the MEWP are summarised in Annex A.

8. The above requirements are for your immediate compliance.

9. For further clarification on the matter above, you can contact us at mom_oshd@mom.gov.sg or (+65) 6438 5122 (please attention to Ms Liew Wan Sein).

ER. MOHD ISMADI

FOR COMMISSIONER FOR WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION

MINISTRY OF MANPOWER

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Annex A – Summary of Duties of Stakeholders on Safe Use of MEWPs at Workplaces

Duties of Manufacturers and Suppliers

- a) Section 16(1) of the WSH Act imposes a duty on the Manufacturer and Supplier to provide equipment (including MEWPs) that is safe, and without risk to health, when properly used. This would include ensuring that the MEWP is in full compliance with internationally acceptable design codes and standards and that it is equipped with all the required safety devices stipulated by the applicable design codes and standards it is manufactured or constructed to.

Duties of Occupier

- b) Regulation 21(1) and 21(3) of the WSH (General Provisions) Regulations, requires the Occupier to ensure that the MEWPs used at the workplace are registered with the Ministry as a statutory lifting machine and that it is thoroughly examined by an Authorised Examiner (AE) at least once every six months.
- c) In addition, Section 11(c) of the WSH Act imposes a duty on the Occupier to take, so far as is reasonably practicable, measures to ensure that any machinery or equipment (including MEWPs) kept on the workplace are safe and without risks to health to everyone within those premises.

Duties of Owners of MEWP

- d) Regulation 21(16) of the WSH (General Provisions) Regulations, requires the Owner of an MEWP to ensure that it is of good mechanical construction, sound material and adequate strength and that it is properly maintained. This would include ensuring that the MEWP is maintained properly in accordance with the Manufacturer's recommendations and that all the required safety devices are in good working order.

Duties of Employer

- e) Section 12 of the WSH Act requires the Employer to take, so far as is reasonably practicable, such measures as are necessary to ensure the safety and health of his employees at work. These measures include ensuring that adequate safety measures are taken in respect of any machinery or equipment (including MEWPs) used by the employees.
- f) In addition, Employer shall ensure that persons at work have adequate instruction, information, training and supervision as is necessary for them to perform their work

Duties of Persons At Work

- g) Section 15(2) of the WSH Act requires that no person at work shall wilfully or recklessly interfere with or misuse any appliance or equipment (including MEWPs) that will compromise the safety, health or welfare of persons at work. This would include carrying out unsafe acts such as by-passing or removing such safety devices installed or fitted to the MEWPs.

Duties of Authorised Examiner

- h) Regulation 21(15) of the WSH (General Provisions) Regulations, imposes a duty on the AE to exercise all due diligence in making any certification or in conducting any test or examination of any lifting machine (including MEWPs). As such, AE shall exercise all due diligence in testing, examining and certifying that the MEWP are safe for use for its intended purpose and that the safety devices are in place and that they are in good working order.