



MEWP PRE-USE INSPECTION TOOLBOX TALK

A Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) should be inspected by the operator prior to use to make sure it is safe to use. Failure to carry out a pre-use inspection may result in death or major injuries to the platform occupants and personnel at ground level, as well as damage to the MEWP, property, and the environment.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Before carrying out a pre-use inspection you should:

- Ensure you are trained in the correct category of MEWP you are about to use
- Ensure you are familiarised on the specific model
- Ensure the correct operator's manual is with the MEWP so you can follow the manufacturers pre-use inspection requirements

Your employer should provide you with adequate training to enable you to operate the MEWP safely, and you must be aware of any associated risks.

HOW DO I CARRY OUT A PRE-USE INSPECTION OF A MEWP?

The principles of a pre-use inspection are the same for any MEWP:

- Always refer to the MEWPs operator's manual. Make sure that the serial number shown on the manual corresponds to the serial number on the MEWP compliance/data plate
- Verify that the periodical inspection is documented and up to date. If there's no evidence of inspection or it's out of date, do not use the MEWP
- Confirm the data/compliance plate has the correct serial number matching the MEWP
- Conduct the pre-use inspection in accordance with the manufacturer's operating manual instructions
- Ensure any modifications, like Material Handling Accessories (MHAs) or secondary guarding systems, are authorised

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This toolbox talk applies to:

- User (the person, or company who has control of the use of the MEWP on site)
- MEWP operators
- Managers and supervisors
- Nominated ground control rescue person

- It is recommended that the pre-use inspection is recorded in your logbook, or your IPAF ePAL app

WHAT IF THE MEWP IS FAULTY?

If a fault is found that could affect the safe use of the MEWP, then you must:

- **Isolate** the MEWP, remove the key and activate the emergency stop switches
- **Tag** the MEWP to inform other operators in the area that the MEWP has a fault
- **Report** the fault to your supervisor/manager

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) WHEN CARRYING OUT A PRE-USE INSPECTION?

IPAF recommend as a minimum:

- Suitable head protection with a chin strap
- Suitable eye protection
- Suitable protective gloves/gauntlets
- Safety footwear

When carrying out a pre-use inspection on a boom type MEWP it is recommended you wear the appropriate Personal Fall Protection Equipment (PFPE), which is a full body harness with an adjustable lanyard if you are in the platform. The lanyard should be attached to the designated anchorage point in the platform and adjusted as short as possible.

You may also need PFPE in a vertical platform if it is a site requirement or a risk assessment safe work procedure.

REMEMBER

- A MEWP should be inspected before use
- If you use a MEWP which has not been inspected, it may be unsafe to use
- Always report dangerous acts and defects

USEFUL REFERENCES

- Manufacturer's Operating Manual
- IPAF Operators Safety Guide
- IPAF Pre-use Inspection Check Sheet (available at www.ipaf.org/resources)