April 2020

BIE SAFETY ADVISOR

Changes to Industry Standards for Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWP's)

The March 1, 2020 implementation of the new ANSI A92 Suite of Standards (ANSI A92.20 Design, ANSI A92.22 Safe Use and A92.24 Training) for Mobile Elevating Work Platforms is creating some confusion in the industry. These new standards update requirements for the safe use of MEWP's by specifying proper work applications, operator training, equipment design, inspections, and maintenance.

Following are highlights of this new Suite of Standards:

ANSI Standard A92.20 – Aerial Equipment Design:

- Only apply to new equipment. Existing lifts will not need to be retrofitted.
- Require gated entrances. The work platform can no longer be chained. At the entrance, a toeboard will need to be present to prevent falling objects.
- The tires on rough terrain MEWP's will be required to be solid or foam filled.
- For repair documentation, a decal or other label must record the dates of the machine's last annual inspection.
- The minimum height for platform railings will be raised from 1m (39 in.) to 1.1m (43.5 in.).
- A reduction in lift and loads speeds will ensure a smooth, safe ascent.
- Active platform load-sensing alarms will warn operators if a situation becomes unsafe. These sensors will sound off when a load exceeds its limit or if a boom goes beyond the recommended slope.
- New wind force requirements can potentially reduce load capacities on scissors and vertical platform lifts. Some models may include unique indoor/outdoor settings that will change the lifts capabilities based on the environment.
- The operator manual must include a listing of all MEWP functions, features, operating characteristics, limitations and devices to be included in familiarization.

A92.22 Safe Use

- The standard requires the user to develop a safe use program specific to MEWP's. The risks associated with the task specific to MEWP operations must be identified. Once the hazards and risks involved in the task have been identified, the procedures and measures required to eliminate or mitigate them must be identified and implemented. Rescue planning is a necessary component of a risk assessment when working at height.
- The user is responsible for communicating the results of the risk assessment to all parties involved. Before a job starts, and periodically throughout a long-term job, the risk assessment must be reviewed to determine if any components of the tasks or the work environment have changed, as well as the effect that it could have on the safety of the operation. If any changes to the risk assessment are required, these must be communicated to everyone involved prior to resuming the job.

ANSI Standard A92.24 – Training

- Operator training will remain very much as it is now with a few additions that include proper selection of the appropriate MEWP for the work to be performed; how to perform a workplace risk assessment, and occupant training.
- ANSI will allow qualified operators, who have already received proper training and are qualified to operate other MEWP's, to self-familiarize on machines they have not yet operated. And, ANSI will not impose a specific retraining period for operators. It will be based upon the user's evaluation of the operator's capabilities.
- Another new requirement in the standards is supervisor training. The user must ensure that all personnel that directly supervise MEWP operators are adequately trained.
- Occupant training is also a new requirement. The MEWP operator must ensure that all occupants in the platform have a basic level of knowledge to work safely on the MEWP. All occupants must receive training that explains the procedures to follow if they fall and await rescue or witness another worker's fall.
- Maintenance and repair personnel must be trained by a qualified person to inspect and maintain the MEWP, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and ANSI standards.

In the case where a MEWP is being rented, arrangements must be made by the owner to identify the entity that will be responsible for the inspections and maintenance activities described in the standard.

While these are excellent best practices, OSHA does not require employers to comply with these consensus standards. OSHA may reference industry standards for establishing industry recognition of a hazard and existence of feasible abatement measures to support violations of the General Duty Clause where an OSHA standard is not applicable. For enforcement purposes, OSHA is limited to using A92.2 (1969), the version of A92 incorporated by reference into OSHA's standards. Note that under OSHA's de minimis policy, where OSHA has adopted an earlier consensus standard, employers who are in compliance with the updated version will not be cited for a violation of the old version as long as the new one is at least equally protective.

Monthly Toolbox Talk

Aerial Lifts/Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWP's)

Construction workers involved in aerial lift accidents could face falls, broken bones and death. Approximately 26 construction workers die each year from the improper use of aerial lifts.

Here is an Example:

Al was working in an aerial lift bucket installing a sign near some electrical wires. The base of the lift had not been positioned on a flat surface. At one point the lift shifted and one edge caught the electrical wires. Al was shocked by the current and fell 20 feet to the ground. He died as a result of the injuries.

1. Why did this accident happen?
2. How could this injury have been prevented?
3. Have you ever had an injury from aerial lifts or know someone who has had an injury from aerial lifts? If so, what happened?

Preventing Injuries from Aerial Lifts

Before operating an aerial lift:

- Review the safe use program specific to the lift you will be using to ensure that the hazards and risks involved in the task have been identified, and the procedures and measures required to eliminate or mitigate them have been identified and implemented.
- Have all employees involved in use and maintenance of the lift been adequately trained?
- Conduct pre-start inspection to make sure there are no damaged or faulty parts that can cause an unsafe situation while working.
- Ensure users have fall protection equipment that includes full body harnesses and lanyards that are attached to a designated attachment point on the boom or bucket
- Inspect the work environment. If any of the following hazards are found, remove them before beginning work:
  - Drop offs, holes, or unstable surfaces
  - Inadequate ceiling heights
  - Slopes, ditches, and bumps on the ground
  - Debris and other floor obstructions
  - Electrical power lines and cables
  - Overhead obstructions
  - High winds and severe weather like heavy rain and ice
  - Other workers in close proximity to the work area

While Operating an Aerial Lift:

- Always close lift platform chains or doors.
- Always wear fall arrest equipment with lanyard attached to a designated anchor point.
- Always stand on the floor of the basket.

What NOT to do when operating an aerial lift:

- Do not exceed the load capacity limits, taking into account the combined weight of the workers and tools
- Do not use the aerial lift as a crane
- Do not carry objects larger than the platform
- Do not drive with the lift platform raised, unless designated for that purpose.
- Do not operate the lower level controls unless permission is given from the workers in the bucket or platform
- Do not exceed vertical or horizontal limits
- Do not operate the aerial lift in high winds
- Do not override the hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical safety devices
- Do not climb on or lean over guardrails.
- Do not attach lanyards to adjacent structures or poles
- No planks, ladders, or other devices in the working position

Safety Reminder

- See Something?
- Say Something, and
- Fix It

What Are We Going to Do Today?

What are we going to do today here at this worksite to prevent injuries from aerial lifts?

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ATTENDEES: Print Name / Signature (use back if necessary)

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DATE: _____

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE:

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JOBSITE / PROJECT:

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