



Risk assessment and method statement

MEWP risk assessment

Work from a MEWP: cherry picker, boom or scissor lift. Pre-filled with typical hazards, controls and sequence: edit it for this site.

PROJECT

SITE ADDRESS			
ACTIVITY		RAMS REFERENCE	
Work from a MEWP: cherry picker, boom or scissor lift			
CONTRACTOR CARRYING OUT THE WORK		PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	
PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	REVISION	DATE

Revision record

Reissue and rebrief when the sequence, the programme, the team or the conditions change. If you would have written it differently had you known, it needs a new revision.

REV	DATE	WHAT CHANGED	BY

THE WORK

The activity, the place and the people

Pre-filled for this kind of work. Make every line specific to this site: this sequence, this access, these people, this weather.

Scope of the activity

What is being done, and what is not included.

MHSWR REGULATION 3(1)

Work from a [boom-type MEWP or scissor lift] to [describe the task] at [location], at a working height of up to [x] metres with [x] metres outreach, for about [duration]. Machine: [make, model, IPAF category]. Not included: lifting materials other than within the platform's safe working load, which needs a separate lift plan.

Location and access

Where on site, how people and materials get there, and the restrictions.

MEWP delivered via [gate] to [offload point] at [time], met by [name]. Travel route to the work position walked and checked for covers, trenches, slopes and overhead obstructions. Exclusion zone barriered to the full outreach. Working hours [08:00 to 17:00].

Programme and interfaces

When the work runs, and who else is working nearby.

CDM REGULATION 15(2)

START DATE

DURATION

WORKING HOURS

INTERFACES WITH OTHER TRADES

Other trades working below or beside the platform: [trades]. They stay outside the exclusion zone while the platform is in use. Site traffic and other lifting plant co-ordinated through [name]. Hire company: [name and call-out number].

Documents this RAMS relies on

Thorough examination report [date]; operator's manual; operators' training cards and familiarisation records; pre-use and rescue plan; ground bearing or slab loading information [ref]; construction phase plan.

The team, and their competence

CDM REGULATION 8

ROLE	NAME	CARD, TICKET OR TRAINING NEEDED	CONTACT
Planner		Competent to plan the MEWP work and choose the machine, as LOLER regulation 8 requires for lifting operations; recognised MEWP manager training is available.	
MEWP operators		Training card listing the category, such as IPAF 3a for scissor lifts, 3b for mobile booms or 1b for static booms, checked for expiry, plus recorded familiarisation on the model.	
Operators in congested areas		Extra entrapment training where adjacent or overhead structures raise the risk of trapping.	
Ground rescuers		Nominated, familiarised on the ground controls and emergency descent of each machine, and given regular practice.	
Occupants		Instructed in fitting and using the harness and lanyard, and in the rescue plan.	
Banksman		Trained and authorised to guide the MEWP when it travels or reverses where the view is limited.	

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METHOD STATEMENT

The sequence of work

The order the team will work in on the day, with the controls built into each stage. If the sequence changes on site, revise the RAMS and brief it again.

STAGE	WHAT IS DONE, AND HOW	CONTROLS AT THIS STAGE	BY
Survey the job	Record the task, working height and outreach, the ground and slab loading, overhead structures and lines, site traffic and who works below. Ask first whether the work can be done from the ground.	Machine type chosen for the task: boom or scissor, rough terrain or slab, indoor or outdoor, secondary guarding where trapping is possible.	Supervisor
Book the machine	Hire the MEWP with its manual and thorough examination report. Check each operator's training card for the category and its expiry date, and arrange familiarisation on the model.	Examination in date; familiarisation recorded; ground rescuer named.	Supervisor
Delivery and offload	Meet the driver at the agreed time and point. Keep pedestrians and traffic clear while the machine comes off the vehicle, using a banksman for any reversing.	Offload area segregated, including on the highway; ground checked for covers.	Supervisor
Brief the team	Brief this assessment, the rescue plan, the wind limit, the exclusion zone and the harness rule for the machine. Show the ground rescuer the ground controls and emergency lowering.	Briefing signed against this revision; cards checked.	Supervisor
Pre-use checks	Carry out the daily function check from the manual, including the emergency stop, ground controls, emergency lowering, alarms, tyres, guard-rails, gate and anchor points. Check harnesses and lanyards.	Checks recorded; a defective machine isolated, tagged and reported.	MEWP operator
Travel to position	Walk the route first. Drive slowly with the platform positioned as the manual sets for travel, watching for overhead obstructions, covers and edges, with a banksman where the view is limited.	Route clear and firm; nobody between the machine and a structure.	MEWP operator
Set up	Level the machine within its limits and deploy outriggers on spreader plates where fitted. Barrier and sign the area to the full outreach of the platform.	Exclusion zone in place before the platform is raised; public routes kept open or diverted.	Operatives
Work from the platform	Clip on before raising in a boom-type MEWP and keep the gate closed in a scissor lift. Keep within the safe working load, with tools on lanyards and nothing on the rails.	Ground rescuer on site; slow movements near structures; no exit at height.	MEWP operator
Weather and changes	Check the wind at platform height during the work. Lower the platform and stop when it passes the manufacturer's limit, the weather turns or the task changes.	Assessment revised and re-briefed if the machine, position or method changes.	Supervisor
Park and secure	Lower the platform fully, park in the compound or agreed area, switch off and apply the brakes. Charge electric machines in an area protected from the weather.	Machine isolated against unauthorised use; defects reported before the next shift.	MEWP operator

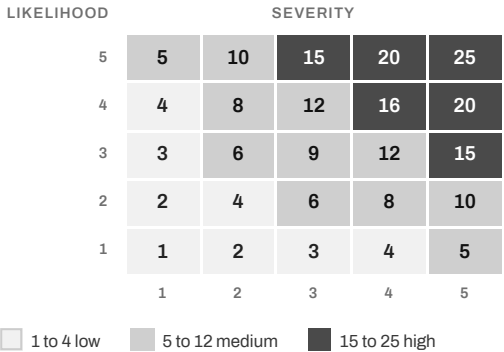
CDM REGULATION 15(2): PLAN, MANAGE AND MONITOR THE WORK

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Hazards, controls and the risk that remains

Each significant hazard rated before and after its controls, as likelihood times severity. The ratings are typical: check them for this site.



HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Overturning on poor ground	Occupants and people nearby, from soft ground, voids, covers, backfill, kerbs or slopes.	3 x 5 = 15 High	• Ground bearing capacity and any slab loading limit obtained from the person in control of the site before the machine arrives. • Route and work position walked for covers, trenches, cellars and soft spots; outriggers on spreader plates sized for the point load. • Machine kept within the gradient and level limits in its manual; ground re-checked after rain or frost.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Thrown from a boom basket	Occupants of boom-type MEWPs when the boom jolts on rough ground, snags or is struck.	3 x 5 = 15 High	• Full body harness on a short work restraint lanyard, clipped to the basket anchor point before the platform is raised or driven. • Route cleared of debris and cables; travel slow over uneven ground, with the platform positioned as the manual sets for travel. • Work area barriered so vehicles and plant cannot strike the machine.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	MEWP operator
Falls from a scissor lift platform	Occupants who lean over or climb on the guard-rails, or work with the entry gate open.	3 x 5 = 15 High	• Guard-rails complete and the entry gate closed before the platform is raised; feet stay on the platform floor. • No ladders, steps or materials used on the platform to gain height. • Machine repositioned rather than overreaching; a harness only where the manual or the assessment requires one, on the marked anchor.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Trapping against overhead structures	Operators working under beams, ducts, soffits and pipework, or manoeuvring up through steelwork.	3 x 5 = 15 High	• Approach and work position checked for overhead and adjacent structures; a MEWP with a secondary guarding device chosen where trapping is possible. • Slow, smooth control movements near obstructions, allowing for run-on; never crouched over the control panel to dodge an obstruction. • Extra entrapment training for operators working in congested areas; rescue plan practised.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	MEWP operator
People trapped or struck at ground level	Workers and the public near the base, during slewing, travel and reversing.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	• Work area barriered and signed to the full outreach of the platform, not only the base footprint. • Banksman to guide travel where the operator's view is limited, especially when reversing. • Nobody stands between the counterweight and a structure while the machine slews.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Contact with overhead power lines	Occupants and ground staff when the boom or platform nears an overhead line.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	• Lines identified at the survey; work within 10 m, measured horizontally at ground level from below the nearest wire, planned, and the line owner consulted. • Line made dead or diverted where the platform could reach it; otherwise a different method or position. • Where the machine passes under a line, a fenced passageway with goalposts and the clearance height signed.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Overloading the platform	Occupants, from people, tools and materials over the rated load, or loads on the rails.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	• Safe working load counted with people, tools, materials and any handling device; the overload system is never disabled. • Nothing balanced on the guard-rails; long or heavy items placed by crane, telehandler or a fitted material handling attachment. • If the overload alarm sounds, the overload is removed before the platform is moved.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Wind and weather	Occupants of MEWPs used outdoors, at full height, or between buildings where wind funnels.	3 x 5 = 15 High	• Wind speed checked with an anemometer at platform height against the manufacturer's maximum; work stops above it. • Indoor-only machines kept indoors and out of draughts from open doors or part-clad buildings. • Rain, ice and wind chill considered; cold and wet weather clothing issued.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	

MHSWR REGULATION 3(6): WITH FIVE OR MORE EMPLOYEES, RECORD THE SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

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RISK ASSESSMENT, CONTINUED

More hazards, and those specific to this site

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Falling tools and materials	People below the platform, including other trades and the public.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Area below the platform and its outreach barriered and signed, and kept clear of people. - Tools on lanyards where people could be below; materials kept inside the basket. - Nothing thrown or dropped from the platform.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Struck by vehicles and site plant	The MEWP and its occupants when working beside live site routes or the public highway.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Work area coned and barriered; the platform never booms out over live traffic. - Site traffic diverted or stopped while the MEWP works beside a route; signing and traffic management agreed for highway work. - Other lifting plant in the area identified and its movements co-ordinated.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Delivery and unloading	Drivers, ground staff and the public while the MEWP is offloaded, often on the highway.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Delivery time, offload point and the person who meets the driver agreed with the hire company. - Offload area segregated from pedestrians and traffic, including on the public highway; ground checked for covers and capacity. - Banksman for any reversing on or off the vehicle.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	
Machine faults and defects	Occupants stranded or injured by a defective machine, and anyone below.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	- Daily pre-use function check by the trained operator, recorded, including the ground controls and emergency lowering. - Thorough examination report seen and in date before the machine is used on site. - Any fault: controls isolated, machine tagged and the defect reported to the person in control.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Operator taken ill or trapped at height	An operator who cannot lower the platform, and anyone else in it.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	- Nominated people on site, familiarised on the ground controls and emergency descent of this machine and given regular practice. - Ground control key left in the base during work, or a second key held by the rescuer where that is not safe. - If a trapped operator does not respond, the emergency services are called at once while the rescue starts.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Leaving the platform at height	Occupants stepping off onto a roof, structure or another level.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	- MEWPs are not used to transfer people between levels; occupants stay inside the platform. - Exit at height only where a rigorous assessment at planning shows it is the safest way, with a written safe system of work.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Working over or beside water	Occupants of a MEWP working over or next to water, where the machine or a person could go in.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	- Assessed at planning: whether falling from the basket or drowning if the machine goes into the water is the greater risk. - Where drowning is the greater risk, life jackets are worn and harnesses are not, as HSE GEIS6 advises. - Edges of quays, banks and slabs set out and barriered so the machine cannot run off them; rescue plan covers recovery from water.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Unauthorised use	Untrained workers or members of the public using a parked machine.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	- Parked in a secure compound or agreed area, platform lowered, power off and brakes on; wheels chocked on a gradient. - Machine isolated at the end of each shift by the method agreed with the hire company.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	

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EQUIPMENT

Plant, equipment and PPE

Plant and equipment

Each item, the checks and certificates it needs, and who may operate it.

PUWER 1998, LOLER 1998

ITEM	CHECKS AND CERTIFICATES	OPERATOR COMPETENCE
Boom-type MEWP (cherry picker)	Daily function check; thorough examination at least every 6 months.	Trained, familiarised
Scissor lift	Daily function check, including gate and guard-rails; examination in date.	Trained, familiarised
Harness and restraint lanyard	Pre-use check by the user; detailed inspections recorded.	Trained user
Spreader plates and outrigger pads	Sized for the point load and the ground; checked for damage.	MEWP operator
Anemometer	Working, and read at platform height before and during the work.	MEWP operator
Barriers, cones and signs	Set to the full outreach of the platform before work starts.	Operatives

Personal protective equipment

PPE is the last line of defence, after the controls above. Specify the type, not just the item.

PPE AT WORK REGULATIONS 1992

ITEM	NEEDED	TYPE AND SPECIFICATION
Safety helmet	☒	Helmet with chin strap
Safety footwear	☒	Safety boots, grip sole
High-visibility clothing	☒	To site standard
Gloves	☐	
Eye protection	☐	
Hearing protection	☐	
Respiratory protection Type, and face-fit tested	☐	
Harness or restraint Anchor points identified	☒	Full harness, short lanyard in a boom MEWP

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CONTROLS

Substances, permits, emergencies and the environment

Hazardous substances

Each substance and its COSHH assessment.

COSHH 2002, REGULATION 6

SUBSTANCE	COSHH ASSESSMENT REFERENCE	CONTROLS

Permits and plans

PERMIT OR PLAN	NEEDED	REFERENCE
Hot work permit	☐	
Permit to work	☒	
Permit to dig or break ground	☐	
Confined space entry	☐	
Lift plan	☒	
Temporary works design	☐	

Emergency and rescue

First aid, fire, and how someone is rescued.
The rescue plan belongs in the RAMS, not after it.

The rescue plan names the people on site trained to lower the platform from the ground, where the operator's manual is kept, and the hire company's call-out number. If a trapped operator does not respond, call the emergency services at once and start the rescue. First aider on site and the nearest accident and emergency department named on the briefing.

Environment and neighbours

Dust, noise, vibration, waste, spills and hours of work.

Ground protection under outriggers and wheels on finished surfaces. Electric machines charged in a protected area; diesel machines not run indoors without ventilation. Waste brought down in the platform, not thrown. Public routes kept open or diverted.

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PRE-USE AND RESCUE PLAN

MEWP pre-use and rescue plan

Complete before the platform goes up, and again when the machine, the operator or the work position changes. The example entries are for a boom-type MEWP working under steelwork: replace them.

CHECK	WHAT TO CONFIRM	ON THIS JOB	OK	ACTION
Paperwork	Thorough examination within 6 months; manual on the machine; safe working load and wind rating marked	Report dated [date]; manual in the platform box	Yes	
Operator	Card covers this category and is in date; familiarised on this model, and recorded	3b card seen; familiarised by the hire company	Yes	
Daily check	Emergency stop, ground controls, emergency lowering, alarms, tyres, guard-rails, gate, anchors	Done and recorded; no defects	Yes	
Ground and route	Covers, trenches, backfill, slopes and kerbs; bearing capacity; spreader plates needed?	Drain cover on the route	No	Coned off; plates under outriggers
Overhead	Beams, ducts, pipework, trees and power lines; secondary guarding needed?	Steel beams at [x] m over the work	Yes	Machine with secondary guarding
Wind and weather	Wind at platform height against the machine limit; rain, ice and light	[x] m/s at height; limit [y] m/s	Yes	Re-check at midday
Exclusion zone	Barriers to the full outreach; people and vehicles kept clear; no booming over live traffic	Footpath beside the work	No	Footpath diverted and signed
Harness	Boom: harness and short restraint lanyard checked, clipped to the anchor before moving	Two occupants, both clipped on	Yes	
Ground rescuer	Named person on site, familiarised on ground controls and emergency lowering; key in base	[Name], practised [date]	Yes	
Call-out	Hire company engineer, emergency services, nearest accident and emergency, ambulance route	[Numbers and route]	Yes	

HSE GEIS6 (2014); LOLER 1998, REGULATIONS 5 AND 9; CPA 1002 BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR MEWPS (2010)

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Briefed before the work starts

BRIEFED BY	REVISION BRIEFED	DATE AND TIME

[illegible]

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