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H1: FALL PROTECTION IN MEWPS

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Technical Guidance Notes

Boom type platforms

When working from a boom type Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP), it is strongly recommended that a lanyard short enough for the wearer to be restrained within the platform be used. The lanyard may contain an energy-absorbing device, provided it is short enough to restrain the wearer within the platform. This includes Static Booms (1b) and Mobile Booms (3b).

Vertical lifts

It is not normally necessary for personnel working from a vertical lift to wear fall protection equipment, other than in exceptional circumstances.

This includes Static Verticals (1a), Mobile Verticals (3a), Push Around Verticals (PAV) and Mast Climbing Work Platforms (MCWP).

Working next to or over water

A risk assessment should determine whether it is more appropriate to wear a harness to address the fall risk, or a life jacket to address the risk of drowning.

The need for a fall protection system will be the outcome of a job-specific risk assessment undertaken prior to work commencing and taking into consideration the manufacturer's operator manual.



For more details see overleaf, or visit www.ipaf.org

For UK-specific guidance and information on preventing falls and on the use of harnesses and lanyards in MEWPs

- EN 354:** Personal fall protection equipment. Lanyards
- EN 355:** Personal protective equipment against falls from a height. Energy absorbers
- EN 358:** Personal protective equipment for work positioning and prevention of falls from a height. Belts for work positioning and restraint and work positioning lanyards
- EN 360:** Personal protective equipment against falls from a height. Retractable type fall arresters
- EN 361:** Personal protective equipment against falls from a height. Full body harnesses
- EN 362:** Personal protective equipment against falls from a height. Connectors
- EN 363:** Personal fall protection equipment. Personal fall protection systems
- EN 365:** Personal protective equipment against falls from a height. General requirements for instructions for use, maintenance, periodic examination, repair, marking and packaging
- BS 8437:** +A1:2012 Code of practice for selection, use and maintenance of personal fall protection systems and equipment for use in the workplace
- BS 8454:** Code of practice for the delivery of training and education for work at height and rescue
- BS 8460:** Code of practice - Safe use of MEWPs
- ISO 18893:** Mobile elevating work platforms. Safety principles, inspection, maintenance and operation
- BS EN 280:** Mobile elevating work platforms. Design calculations. Stability criteria. Construction. Safety. Examinations and tests

HSE General Information Sheet GEIS 6 – See also *the selection, management and use of mobile elevating work platforms*, available from the HSE website www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/geis6.htm

This guidance was originally developed by the Powered Access Interest Group, a joint committee of IPAF and the Construction Plant-Hire Association, with representatives from hire companies and the HSE. This updated version was approved by the Strategic Forum – Plant Safety Group on 19.09.17.

This document reflects UK legislation. For other country-specific versions and details about IPAF's full range of training programmes for all kinds of MEWPs and MCWPs visit www.ipaf.org

