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# GUIDE TO NEW DESIGN, SAFE-USE AND TRAINING STANDARDS FOR MEWPS



ANSI A92 US – Dealer Guide, February 2019. Document version 2

## CURRENT STANDARDS

Standards are important and may establish standardized requirements for design of a product, process or system. They can specify performance of products or personnel. They can also define terms and definitions specific to the standard, so there is no misunderstanding among those using the standard.

The A92 standards provide uniform guidance in the design and manufacturing of equipment. They also address the planning and operation for the safe-use of equipment and training requirements to aid users in achieving safe and effective use of the equipment. These standards assign responsibilities for various tasks to entities based on their roles, of which they may hold several – manufacturer, dealer, owner, user, supervisor, operator, occupant, lessor, lessee, broker etc. An individual or company may hold several roles; a user may also be an owner of a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP), resulting in responsibilities when acting in the role of an owner of the equipment and responsibilities of a user when as a user, authorizing employees to operate a MEWP.

Currently, ANSI A92 standard's requirements are specified by equipment classification: A92.3 for manually propelled platforms; A92.5 for boom-type platforms, A92.6 for scissor-type platforms and A92.8 for under-bridge inspection devices. Each standard included it's own requirements for design, safe-use and training to ensure the safe and effective use of each category of machine. These standards will be withdrawn in December 2019, although the A92.2 standard for vehicle-mounted aerial devices will remain in effect

## NEW STANDARDS OVERVIEW

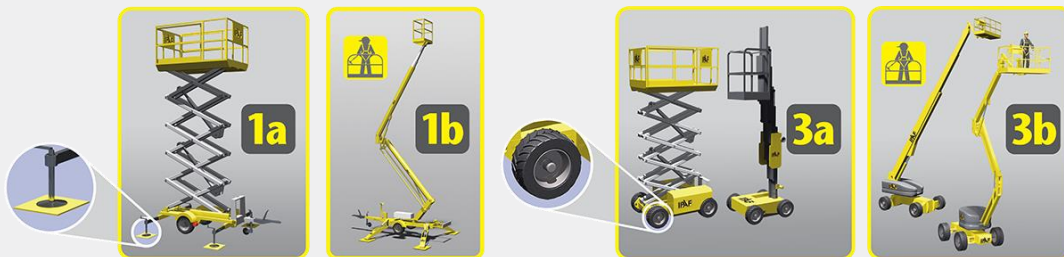
The new ANSI A92 Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP/AWP) Design, Safe-use and Training suite of standards were published in December 2018. All industry stakeholders will have until December 2019 to become compliant with the requirements in the suite of standards. The new standards are ANSI A92.20: Design, Calculations, Safety Requirements and Test Methods for MEWPs; ANSI A92.22: Safe Use of MEWPs; and ANSI A92.24: Training Requirements for Operators MEWPs.

The design standard specifies design calculations and stability criteria, construction, safety examinations and tests and is predominately intended for manufacturers; the safe-use standard specifies requirements for application, inspection, training, maintenance, repair and safe operation of equipment and is predominately intended for owners, users and operators; the training standard provides methods and guidelines to prepare MEWP training materials, defines administrative criteria and delivers elements required for proper training to implement the safe-use standard requirements and is predominantly intended for individuals or companies offering training.

The safe use and training standards apply to both new and existing units and replace the inspections, maintenance, safe operating practices and operator training requirements of the ANSI A92.3, A92.5, A92.6 and A92.8 standards. Compliance with the new standards can begin immediately after publication, but no later than their effective date.

## GENERAL CHANGES

- **Terminology:** There are many changed terms and definitions throughout the new standards, such as the introduction of groups, types, load-sensing system, supervisors and occupants. Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) will be the new term for this equipment, replacing Aerial Work Platform (AWP).
- The three new standards are written by primary task of **design, safe-use and training** to replace four existing standards written by product type – manually propelled, self-propelled booms and scissors, under-bridge inspection devices.
- **The Manual of Responsibilities** is still required to be on all lifts and has a spread sheet to identify responsibilities by entities (dealer, user, operator) in each section.
- New **safe use and training requirements** apply to new and existing MEWPs.
- The design and manufacturing requirements apply to all MEWPs manufactured/remanufactured on or after the effective date
- The new training classifications are a combination of group and type.  
Group a and b are defined by the possible configuration of the MEWP, determined by the center of the platform in relation to the tipping line. If the platform is always inside the tipping line then it is Group a (for example scissor lift, vertical lift) and if the platform can be positioned beyond the tipping line then it is Group b (for example boom-lift). Types 1, 2 and 3 define travelling, with 1 not able to travel out of stowed position, 2 being where travel is controlled from the chassis and 3 is able to travel when elevated:



## DESIGN (MANUFACTURE) CHANGES

- Platform load-sensing: Most machines will monitor platform load and will not operate with normal control functionality if overloaded beyond rated capacity, except by the emergency controls.
- New wind force requirements: Result in potential reduced capacities on scissors and vertical platform lifts. MEWPs can be designed for indoor use only with zero exposure to wind.
- New stability test requirements: Results in foam-filled only (no air-filled) tires on the majority of rough-terrain scissors or booms.
- Chain entrances on scissors and vertical platform lifts are no longer allowed. Toe boards will now be required at entrances on all MEWPs.



- In addition to the existing required alarm for tilt sensor, MEWPs shall be prevented from certain movements upon reaching the limits of the inclination of the chassis.
- A decal or other means must be provided to mark the dates of the last and next annual inspection.
- The operator's manual shall include a listing of MEWP functions, features, operating characteristics, limitations and devices to be included in familiarization, making it clear what must be included.
- Minimum railing heights increased from 0.99 m (39 in) to 1.1m (43.3 in), which may require new models to offer folding rails for movement through standard doorways.

### **SAFE-USE CHANGES**

- Whenever a dealer directs personnel to operate a MEWP (loading/unloading, inspecting, demonstrations or any form of use), the dealer shall assume the responsibilities of users and must comply with all of the requirements of a user in the safe-use and training standards.
- Requirements for modifications have been expanded to include more details concerning record keeping and communication (labels, instructions, serial plates). Modifications must only be performed if approved by the manufacturer or their successor, or, if they are no longer in business, an engineer with expertise in MEWPs. Additionally, only the MEWP owner can authorize a modification to a MEWP.
- When requested by the user, dealers and owners shall offer familiarization to assist users and operators comply with their requirements. This is a change from current standards that require a dealer to provide familiarization upon delivery by sale, lease, rental or any form of use.
- In addition to the requirement to ensure personnel receive training and familiarization, they shall ensure the operator of a MEWP is physically and mentally capable to operate the MEWP safely.
- 'Safe use planning' requires a program specific to MEWPs be developed by users to include task such as a risk assessment, the selection of the proper MEWP for the application and access, preparation and maintenance of the work site in preparation for use of the MEWP. It introduces the user requirement for a trained and qualified supervisor to monitor the performance of the operator to ensure compliance with provisions of this standard. As a dealer assumes the role of a user anytime personnel are authorized as operators, all user responsibilities must be adhered to when acting as a user.
- A new requirement is performing a risk assessment to include identification of the task to be undertaken, selection of an appropriate MEWP, assessing risk, developing control measures and identifying safe work procedures. It is important to recognize this is required for all MEWP operations.
- A proper risk assessment requires a rescue plan for workers from an elevated platform. This includes planning a safe and timely rescue in case of MEWP malfunction or fall from the platform.
- Detailed guidance and requirements are provided for specific requirements of operation that address many known potential hazards such as wind, storms, ground conditions, transporting and travelling on public roads, to name but a few. These requirements must be considered in the risk assessment.
- Detailed guidance and requirements that exiting a MEWP at height shall only be permitted through a procedure provided by the manufacturer has expanded to include "or by a qualified person". The procedure must address detailed requirements in the standard. If the risk assessment determines that exiting at height is the safest method of work, then this procedure shall be followed when the exit at height is conducted.
- Electrical hazard avoidance: NEW language requires operators to stay at least ten feet from power lines with any part of their body, conductive object or the MEWP, and only closer if allowed by a qualified person.



- ALL users, including dealers who have MEWP operators, shall designate a qualified person to monitor, supervise and evaluate operators on a regular basis to ensure their proficiency to be accomplished through visual observation, at a minimum, which shall be documented for retention.
- Retraining requirements now provide several examples when retraining 'would' be necessary, such as observed deterioration of proficiency or involvement in a near-miss or accident.

## **TRAINING CHANGES**

- Training delivered prior that is compliant with previous standards will require supplemental training to address new requirements.
- Operator training is required for each MEWP classification.
- The training standard defines requirements for standardized training through methods and guidelines to prepare MEWP training materials, administrative criteria, and elements required for proper training and familiarization.
- A dealer offering training must ensure the user is aware of their responsibilities to select personnel who are qualified to perform the task and that the training offered meets the requirement that training provided is in a manner that trainees can understand (i.e. language and comprehension).
- The MEWP operator is required to provide instruction or otherwise ensure all occupants have a basic level of knowledge to work safely on the MEWP. This requirement must be covered in training courses.
- New language requiring personnel that directly supervise MEWP operators shall receive supervisor training, to include topics such as proper MEWP selection, user and operator requirements, identification of known hazards and means to manage the risk and compliance with the manufacturer's operator's manual.
- When delivering training, it must comply with the requirements for administration of training to include training content, trainer qualification, training environment, testing, and documentation.
- NEW language to address the environment where training occurs to be hazard-free, with requirements for both classroom and hands-on practical training areas to support adult learning.

## **BECOMING COMPLIANT THROUGH IPAF TRAINING**

The best way to ensure compliance is for operators to hold a PAL Card and supervisors to complete IPAF's MEWPs for Managers course, which fulfils the requirement for MEWP supervisor training. Utilizing the latest generation of online learning tools, IPAF offers operator trainees the option of completing the theory requirement of their training via interactive eLearning. The benefits of eLearning include:

- Trainees complete the module online – anytime, anywhere, on any device and at their own pace;
- Trainees can then complete the supervised hands-on practical test and evaluation at an approved training center to complete operator training;
- Operators don't have to take so much time away from the job to complete training;
- In most cases necessary a hands-on practical test can be concluded comfortably inside a few hours;
- Trainees opting for an instructor-led theory course also benefit from sessions enhanced by the interactive material in the online module;
- Available in English or Spanish.

In addition, IPAF's MEWPs for Managers course fulfils the requirement for MEWP supervisor training. For more information, please visit [www.ipaf.org/en-us/m4m](http://www.ipaf.org/en-us/m4m)



### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT**

This document is intended to raise awareness of the **key changes only** in the new standards; IPAF strongly recommends that you **read the full version** of the new standards to ensure all responsibilities are addressed.

For further information about the new North American MEWP standards, advice about how to become compliant and membership or training support enquiries, email [USA@ipaf.org](mailto:USA@ipaf.org) or visit [www.ipaf.org/contact](http://www.ipaf.org/contact) for details of how to get in touch with your nearest IPAF office or representative.