

DO NOT USE A MEWP AS AN OVERHEAD ANCHOR POINT

www.ipaf.org



Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) are designed to lift people to a position where they can work at height safely in the platform. MEWPs are not designed to be used as an overhead anchor point. Using them as such is **not recommended**.

MEWPS AS OVERHEAD ANCHOR POINTS IN A FALL-PROTECTION SYSTEM

Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) are designed to lift people to a position where they can conduct temporary work at height safely in the platform. MEWPs are not designed to be used as an overhead anchor point. Using a MEWP as an overhead anchor is **not recommended**.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

There may however be exceptional circumstances in which MEWPs can be used as an overhead anchor point as part of a fall-protection system, for example to assist in the unloading of vehicles.

The user may only use a MEWP as an overhead anchor point **with the express written approval from the MEWP manufacturer and owner**. The user must understand the operational procedures involved and the limits of the specific MEWP before considering undertaking this activity.

Using a MEWP as an overhead anchor as part of a fall-protection system should be considered only after other methods

of preventing falls have been shown not to be practicable and a risk assessment demonstrates it is the safest, most effective means of performing the task.

If intending to use a MEWP as an overhead anchor point, users should ensure ALL specific hazards and risks are thoroughly addressed in their safety procedures and training programmes.

MACHINE SUITABILITY

MEWPs are primarily designed for working from within the confines of the work platform. Lanyards should only be attached to designated anchorage points approved by the MEWP manufacturer.

Where anchorage points are designed for “restraint only”, they must not be used as overhead anchor points in fall-arrest systems.

There are **some** MEWPs that have anchorage points designed and tested to be used for both fall-restraint and fall-arrest systems. If the MEWP has such an anchorage, this in itself does not indicate that it is suitable to be used as an overhead anchor. This **must** be verified in writing by the specific MEWP manufacturer prior to being used as an overhead anchor point.