

THIRD-PARTY WORK ON MEWPS TOOLBOX TALK

It is common for Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) rental companies/owners to outsource service and inspection work on their equipment to third-party service providers. Examples of external work may include:

- Inspections (routine, periodical/annual, thorough examinations and major inspections).
- Major/minor repairs and service work.
- Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) modifications, recalls and safety alerts.

This Toolbox Talk provides information on the importance of selecting suitable third-party service providers and ensuring that any work completed on their equipment meets the requirements of the OEM, or, in some cases, a competent professional engineer.

WHAT SHOULD A MEWP OWNER DO?

A MEWP owner should ensure that any service provider they choose is competent and approved. The service provider should have competent service personnel to perform any work that is required of them. Considerations for selection may include:

- Consultation with existing OEM approved third-party service providers.
- Documentary evidence of insurance certification.
- Evidence of qualifications of the service personnel. If a service provider is performing thorough examinations, consider requesting the IPAF Competent Assessed Person (CAP) licence (UK only).
- Confirmation they are able to access and understand OEM information.
- Proven knowledge of applicable industry legislation and standards.
- Proven experience on the specific equipment.
- Gathering industry feedback information.
- Conducting periodic audits of processes in place.

USEFUL REFERENCES

- IPAF Technical Guidance - Service, Inspection and Maintenance of MEWPs
- IPAF Toolbox Talk - Safe on site Servicing of MEWPs
- IPAF Toolbox Talk - Safe Workshop Servicing & Repair of MEWPs

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This Toolbox Talk applies to all individuals involved with the service, inspection and maintenance of a MEWP, including:

- MEWP owners (includes MEWP rental companies).
- Third party service providers.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS IF MEWPS ARE NOT INSPECTED OR REPAIRED IN LINE WITH THE OEM SPECIFICATIONS?

If a MEWP is not inspected or repaired in line with the OEM specifications, there is the risk that compliance, warranty, and even the safety of the MEWP could be compromised. Examples include:

- Failure of critical safety components, e.g. load bearing components.
- Loss of components due to incorrect fitting procedures, e.g., incorrect hardware or fastening procedures.
- Loss of compliance due to incorrect settings as a result of poor maintenance, possibly resulting in structural, functional or stability concerns.
- Fire or explosion due to incompatible non-OEM equipment.
- Increased wear resulting in decreased operating lifespan of the MEWP.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ONCE WORK IS COMPLETED BY A SERVICE PROVIDER?

- The completed work should be checked against the scope of work agreed between the MEWP owner and the service provider.
- A report should be issued by the service provider detailing the work that has been carried out.
- Before putting a MEWP back into service, it should be checked by a competent person from the MEWP owner. If there are any discrepancies with the report, or if the repairs are sub-standard, the MEWP should not be put back into service.
- If a MEWP has had work completed as part of an OEM recall or safety alert, a record of the work should be kept on file and the relevant paperwork sent to the OEM.
- Detailed repairs undertaken by the service provider should be recorded in the MEWP's service/inspection file.