

# AS2550.10 Cranes, hoists and winches Safe use

## Part 10: mobile elevating work platform

This overview of the Australian Standard (AS2550.10) Cranes, hoists and winches part 10: mobile elevating work platform, has been created to provide you with a brief understanding of the standard and to enable you to complete the questions in your self-paced assignment. A full transcript of the Australian Standards can be purchased through SAI Global.

The Australian Standard (AS2550.10) Cranes, hoists and winches part 10: mobile elevating work platform was prepared by a joint Technical Committee (ME-005) and was published on December 6, 2006.

**PREFACE:** The objective of the AS2550.10 is to provide guidance on the safe use of mobile elevating work platforms, also known as MEWPs and EWPs.

**SECTION 1: SCOPE AND GENERAL-** Provides general information including the definitions of the terms within the document. The standard refers to a “critical component” (Section 1.3.4) “as one whose failure would result in a risk to the health and safety of persons using the MEWP or in its vicinity”.

The standard provides guidance on various topics including consideration when setting up MEWPs, operating and servicing requirements, maintenance, inspection and repair requirements, fall arrest systems, MEWP rescue and suspension trauma protocols.

**SECTION 2: PLANNING** - This section details the appropriate measures which need to be considered as part of the planning process for the safe operation of the MEWP

**SECTION 3: SELECTION** - This section relates to all matters which must be considered before selecting a MEWP for a specific task.

**SECTION 4: SITING-** This section outlines the need to evaluate the environmental conditions to avoid instability of the MEWP.

**Section 4.10** states that only MEWPs with a wind speed of 12.5 m/s or greater can be used outdoors.

**SECTION 5 OPERATION-** This section provides guidance on the safe work practices required for the operation of the MEWP. This includes the need for logbooks, instruction manuals, emergency procedures, control positions, travelling and transportation in addition to working around power lines.

**Section 5.9** outlines the procedure for access to and egress from the platform in the elevated position. It states that personnel should not enter or leave the platform when elevated (except in an emergency) unless each of the following conditions can be met:

- a) a risk analysis indicates that this means of access is safer than any other means
- b) the landing area is suitable and clear
- c) the risk of falling from the landing area has been controlled
- d) the working on envelope of the MEWP is at least 1.2 times greater than what is required to access the landing

- e) the floor of the work platform can be located within 300mm vertically of the landing
- f) if the work platform is located over the landing, the landing point must be greater than 2 metres from the edge of the structure, unless a safety harness is worn and attached to a suitable anchorage
- g) if the work platform is located adjacent to the landing, the gap between the platform must not exceed 100mm and access and egress can only be undertaken if a safety harness is worn and attached to a suitable anchorage
- h) the base controls are required to be tagged to show that the equipment is in use to avoid interference
- i) the deflection which normally occurs when accessing and egressing in an elevated position is taken into consideration

**SECTION 6 MAINTENANCE, INSPECTION AND REPAIR** - This section discusses the need for regular maintenance, inspection and repair which must be carried out by a competent person.

**Section 6.4.1** outlines the frequency of inspections to ensure that the MEWP is kept in a safe and satisfactory condition. It is essential that critical components of the MEWP are inspected and maintenance is carried out for machines which remain in use.

All MEWPs shall undergo pre operational inspection, routine inspection and maintenance, periodic inspections, enhanced periodic inspections and major inspections.

**Section 6.4.2** states that pre operational checks must be carried out before using the MEWP. This includes a visual inspection and functional test carried out by the operator.

**Section 6.4.3** Routine inspection and maintenance shall be carried out at no more than three monthly intervals unless the MEWP is not in service.

The inspection must include the following:

- a) all functions which control speed, smoothness of operation and limits of motion
- b) all emergency and safety devices including interlocks and emergency lowering device
- c) ground controls including the allowances for overriding upper controls
- d) check the wear and damage to all chain and cable mechanisms
- e) lubrication of all moving parts, inspection of filters and fluid levels
- f) visual inspection of structural members and welds
- g) visual inspection and measurements, if required, of critical components such as brakes, gears, fasteners, pins, shafts, wire ropes, sheaves, locking devices, guardrails, attachments and connections, electrical contractors and all ancillary equipment
- h) signage, decals and control markings
- i) wear on the tyres and damage to the wheel rims
- j) corrosion

**Section 6.4.4** Periodic inspections shall be carried out by a competent person at no more than 12 monthly intervals.

**Section 6.4.5** Major inspections shall be carried out at 10 years and then at 5 yearly intervals.