

# The selection, management and use of mobile elevating work platforms

## HSE information sheet

## General Information Sheet No 6

### Introduction

This information sheet is aimed at those who select, specify, manage and operate mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs).

It tells you what you should consider before selecting a MEWP to gain access to work at height and the risks that need to be assessed and managed while the MEWP is in use.

All types of MEWPs are covered by this guidance, including ones that are:

- vertical 'scissor' lift;
- self-propelled boom;
- vehicle-mounted boom; and
- trailer-mounted boom.

This information sheet has been produced in consultation with the Strategic Forum for Plant Safety – MEWP Safety Group.

### What the law requires

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 require an assessment to be carried out before starting any work at height. If the assessment determines that the work can be carried out in a way that avoids having someone working at height then this must be done.

However, if the assessment confirms that there is no alternative to working at height then the work must be properly planned and organised in advance by a competent person to ensure that the most suitable work equipment is chosen.

When choosing the most suitable work equipment, you must follow the fall protection hierarchy. This states the order in which protective measures should be considered to prevent and mitigate the risks when working at height cannot be avoided.

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) require the risks from using equipment at work to be prevented or controlled and specifically

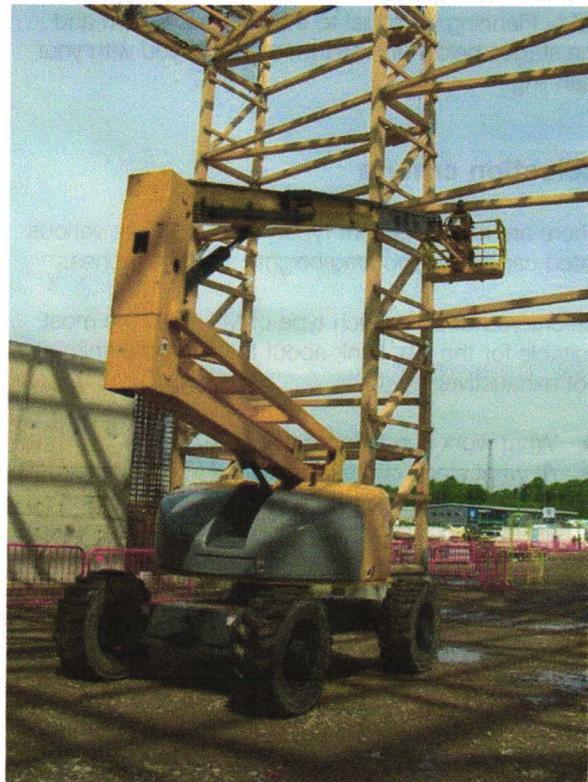


Figure 1 Operating a MEWP near overhead structures

focuses on minimising the overturning risks associated with mobile work equipment such as MEWPs. This is particularly relevant when considering the ground, environmental and operating conditions that the MEWP may experience.

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) require that all lifting operations are to be planned by a competent person and that any equipment used for lifting or lowering loads or people (including MEWPs) should be of adequate strength and stability and thoroughly examined at regular intervals thereafter.