

SAFETY ALERT

SAFE MEWP OPERATION



DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

During a recent site visit, carried out as part of a Corporate Governance Health and Safety Audit, the Auditors commented that a lanyard available for use with a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP), which included an energy absorbing device, may be too long.

Falls while working at height are the most common cause of workplace fatalities across UK industry. Steps should be taken to minimise the need for Work at Height where practicable; however, where Work at Height cannot be avoided, it must be effectively managed.



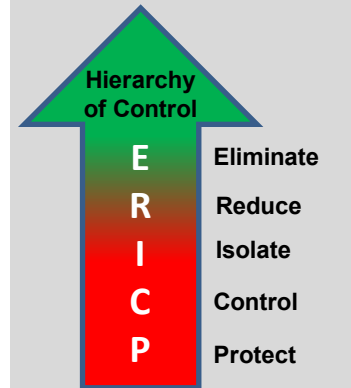
A fall restraint system, a shock lanyard or a lanyard with a shock absorber short enough to restrain the wearer within the platform must be worn with a full body harness in a MEWP



Safety belts are
PROHIBITED

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Work at height is work where, if precautions were not taken, a person could fall a distance liable to cause personal injury. It must be properly planned, supervised and carried out in a safe manner. Formal risk assessment and safe systems of work (method statements) must support the process.
- The risk assessment and selection of control measures must be based on the work at height hierarchy of controls, beginning with the question, can the work be done safely from the ground?
- A High-Risk Permit to Work must be used to control Work at Height.
- All personnel, including Managers and Supervisors, Contractors and Contract Supervision must be adequately trained and competent for the specific method of work, to ensure they use equipment correctly; Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) operators should have attended a recognised training course and received a certificate, card or 'licence', listing the categories of MEWP they are trained to operate.
- It is important to select the right MEWP for the job and site and to have a plan for rescuing someone from a MEWP and practise it.
- MEWP platforms must be fitted with effective guard rails and toe boards; keeping the platform tidy will reduce the risk of the operator tripping or losing balance while in the basket.
- Ground conditions should be firm and level. Any temporary covers should be strong enough to withstand applied pressures.
- **Cemex requires all personnel within the basket to wear a full body harness with a short work restraint lanyard, secured to a suitable manufacturer provided anchorage point within the basket to stop the wearer from getting into a position where they could fall; the lanyard may contain an energy absorbing device, provided it is short enough to restrain the wearer within the platform.**
- **A safety helmet and chin strap, incorporating an automatic release function, must be worn whenever working at height, including when using a MEWP.**



Look after yourself and each other

Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

Personal Protective Equipment

Always wear the correct PPE.

Working At Height

Use appropriate access equipment and fall protection.



STOP THINK ACT