



HERCULES NATIONWIDE HIRE SERVICES

MEWP HIRE CHECK LIST

www.nationwidehireservices.co.uk | sales@nationwidehireservices.co.uk | P: 0845 003 9089

MEWP HIRE CHECK LIST

Be sure you identify the right machine for the job. Before hiring a powered access machine there are a few things you should consider. Also, please refer to the HSE Guidelines GEIS6, this can also be found as one of our PDF downloads

Here is a quick check list:

WORKING HEIGHT

Machine heights quoted relate to the measurement from ground level to maximum platform height, plus an extra 2 metres.

MACHINE OPERATOR'S MANUAL

Before operating any machine, always remember to read through the machine operator's manual. All of our machines come with these

REQUIRED OUTREACH

Outreach relates to measurement from the centre of the turret plus an extra 5cm, on a fully extended boom.

SWL: CARRYING WEIGHT

Always check the safe working load (SWL) of the machine before operating. Always refer to Manufactures / Operator's Instructions. Calculate the weight of the operative (average male = 85kg) and any tools and compare the total to the machine's safe working load.

GROUND CONDITIONS

Ground conditions make a substantial difference to the performance of your machine. Working on a gradient, wet or rough terrain will affect the choice of equipment. We recommend that you discuss this with us before you hire.

WIND SPEED

Working in unsafe wind conditions is dangerous. Always refer to the machine operator's manual for the maximum safe wind speed and check when on site using an anemometer.

DURATION OF HIRE

Depending on how long you need to hire your machine for, this could affect the type of machine that would be best to hire. We offer everything from one day to long term hire.

WORKING INDOORS

When working indoors we recommend electrically powered machines. Remember to measure any doors through which the machine may have to manoeuvre. Also let us know if you are working on a surface where you will need non-marking tyres or wheel covers.

WORKING OUTDOORS

Diesel machines are mainly used outdoors. All machines used outdoors should have a wind rating. Also consider any outreach needed and ground conditions.

WHICH OPERATOR

The majority of our machines can be self-operated, apart from a small selection of truck mounts. If your operator does not hold a recognised licence then ask about our IPAF training options. Call 0845 003 9089

COST EFFICIENCY

Standard hire contracts cover Monday to Friday on a self-operating basis.

Please do enquire if you require an operator.

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Accounts Office: Hercules Scaffolding Ltd. The Old Bakery, Unit 2, 11a Canford Lane, Bristol, BS9 3DP.
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MEWP HIRE: WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

The most significant MEWP dangers arise from operation and use of the machine rather than from their movement as a site vehicle. The [law](#) says that these hazards must be properly controlled.

However, a safe workplace for all vehicle operations needs to be established by separating pedestrians and vehicles and providing hazard-free traffic routes.

See [Traffic management](#).

Key issues are:

- [MEWP hazards](#)
- [Controlling the risk](#)
- [Training and competence](#)
- [Inspection, maintenance and examination](#)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Operators have died when trapped in the MEWP basket or when the machine has overturned. Great care must be taken to select the most appropriate MEWP and ensure that use of the machine is properly planned and managed. Operator instruction and training are very important requirements.

MEWP HAZARDS

Most fatal and serious injuries involving MEWPs arise from:

- **Entrapment:** operator trapped between part of the basket and a fixed structure, eg when manoeuvring in confined overhead areas of steelwork. Operators may become trapped against the platform controls, and if this happens they may not be able to stop the machine running.
- **Overturning:** the machine may overturn throwing the operator from the basket;
- **Falling:** an operator may fall from the basket during work activities; and
- **Collision:** the vehicle may collide with pedestrians, overhead cables or nearby vehicles.

These hazards should be identified within a risk assessment and suitable control measures put in place.

CONTROLLING THE RISK

It is important to select the right MEWP for the job and site.

Have a plan for rescuing someone from a MEWP and practise it – someone on the ground should know what to do in an emergency and how to operate the machine's ground controls.

There are a number of precautions that can reduce the risk from MEWP hazards. These are:

- **Confined overhead working:** Brief operators on the dangers, and the safe system of work to be followed. If there are overhead structures against which an operator could be trapped and then pushed onto the MEWP controls, consider selecting a MEWP that has been designed to prevent such accidental contact.
MEWPs with shrouded or otherwise protected controls are available.
Keeping the platform tidy will reduce the risk of the operator tripping or losing balance while in the basket.
- **Ground conditions:** The platform should be used on firm and level ground. Any temporary covers should be strong enough to withstand the applied pressure. Localised ground features, e.g. trenches, manholes and un-compacted backfill, can all lead to overturning.

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- **Outriggers:** Outriggers must be extended and chocked before raising the platform. Spreader plates may be necessary – check the equipment manual.
- **Guardrails:** Make sure the work platform is fitted with effective guard rails and toe boards.
- **Arresting falls:** if there is still a risk of people falling from the platform a harness with a short work restraint lanyard must be secured to a suitable manufacturer provided anchorage point within the basket to stop the wearer from getting into a position where they could fall from the carrier.
- **Falling objects:** barrier off the area around the platform so that falling tools or objects do not strike people below.
- **Weather:** high winds can tilt platforms and make them unstable. Set a maximum safe wind speed for operation. Storms and snowfalls can also damage platforms. Inspect the platform before use after severe weather.
- **Handling materials:** if used to install materials check the weight and dimensions of materials and consider any manual handling and load distribution issues. You may need additional lifting equipment to transport materials to the work position.
- **Nearby hazards:** do not operate a MEWP close to overhead cables or other dangerous machinery, or allow any part of the arm to protrude into a traffic route.

TRAINING AND COMPETENCE

MEWP operators should have attended a recognised operator training course and received a certificate, card or 'licence', listing the categories of MEWP the bearer is trained to operate.

The expiry date of the training licence or card should be checked.

In addition to formal training for the type of MEWP, operators should have familiarisation training on the controls and operation of the specific make and model of MEWP they are using.

INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND EXAMINATION

A programme of daily visual checks, regular inspections and servicing schedules should be established in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the risks associated with each MEWP.

Operators should be encouraged to report defects or problems. Reported problems should be put right quickly and the MEWP taken out of service if the item is safety critical.

The MEWP must be thoroughly examined at least every six months by a competent person or in accordance with an examination scheme drawn up by such a competent person.

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