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Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs) and Tower Scaffolds

In the last 6 months we have come across a number of clients who use MEWPS or Tower Scaffolds to carry out high level maintenance work. Whilst the work to be carried out indicated that this type of equipment was the most suitable for the job it is a concern that there is a lack of understanding that this type of more complex work at height equipment must be rigorously maintained and that maintenance records must be kept.

Also, worryingly we noted that some clients were not using the equipment correctly, missing out some of the key features of a thorough work at height risk assessment; that there was a tendency to store equipment where it was vulnerable to damage and unauthorised use, e.g. leaving equipment outside) and that where a client's insurer imposed restrictions on work at height e.g. CCIA and the 2 metre standing height restriction) there was a mistaken belief that these restrictions did not apply when using scaffolds or MEWPs.

1. Check carefully with your insurer before allowing your employees or volunteer workers to work at high level.
2. Make sure that you have a robust maintenance schedule in place for your MEWP or tower scaffold and that you record your inspections.

Tower Scaffolds

Different inspection frequencies apply for tower scaffolds above and below 2 metres in height. If you have a scaffold which is above 2 metres in height much more rigorous inspection and reporting procedures are required. For more details view The Health and Safety



Executive produced guidance on Tower Scaffolds
[\(click here to view\)](#).

Mobile Elevated Work Platforms

In addition to pre use checks your mobile elevated work platform and any associated material handling attachments must be thoroughly examined at least every 6 months by a competent person or in accordance with a written scheme compiled by a competent person. A written report must be produced from the examination and this must be available for inspection.



For more detail on safe use of MEWPs [click here](#).

Hiring Work at Height Equipment

If you decide to hire a tower scaffold or MEWP to use for a particular task then you must:

1. Make sure that the people you expect to use it have the necessary training.
2. Make sure that they are authorised by your insurer to use the equipment.
3. Make sure that the equipment is provided in a safe condition. Ask to see records of inspections.
4. The hirer should familiarise your users with the equipment when it is delivered.
5. Use the equipment safely and report any defects or incidents to the hirer.
6. Store your work at height equipment where it is protected from weather, damage and unauthorised use.