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Since 2008

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It shall be the responsibility of all employers, erectors, operators and users to read and comply with the following common sense guidelines. They are designed to promote safety in the erection, dismantling, operation and use of Mast Climbing Work Platforms. These guidelines are not all inclusive. They neither supplement nor replace additional safety and precautionary measures that cover usual or unusual conditions. If these guidelines conflict in any way with state/provincial, local or federal statute or governmental regulations, said statute or regulation shall supersede these guidelines. It shall be the responsibility of each employer and user to comply therewith and to be knowledgeable and understand state/provincial, local or federal statute or governmental regulations pertaining to Mast Climbing Work Platforms.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Post these safety Guidelines in a conspicuous place. Be sure that all persons who erect, use, operate, or dismantle MCWPs are fully aware of these safe practices and have been trained in the safe operation of the equipment. Only persons who are authorized and have received the required training are permitted on the platform.
2. Follow all equipment manufacturers' recommendations as written in the operations manual. Abide by all local, state/provincial and federal statutes and regulations in your area pertaining to MCWPs including but not limited to ANSI A92.9.
3. Erect, dismantle or alter the MCWP only under the supervision of a competent person. Modifications or alterations must be approved in writing by the manufacturer. If the manufacturer is no longer in business modifications shall be made only with written instruction from an equivalent entity.
4. Before using the MCWP, a pre-start inspection must be completed and documented before each shift. Perform frequent and annual inspections as required. Check for hazards such as debris, slippery surfaces, overhead obstructions, high voltage hazards, inadequate base support and other unsafe conditions.
5. Inspections and maintenance shall be performed as required to ensure proper operation. MCWPs not in compliance with manufacturer's guidelines must be removed from service until repaired by an Authorized/Qualified Service Technician.
6. Always install guardrails. Install mast guards during normal operation. Ensure that proper access to the platform is provided and that access gates function properly and other access locations are protected with guardrails.
7. Use all required personal fall protection equipment during erection and dismantle, or when a fall hazard exists.
8. Fully plank platform and walkways using scaffold grade plank or equivalent. Per Federal OSHA, the maximum distance from the front unguarded edge of the platform to the face of the work is 14" except plastering/lathing, which is 18". Ensure that the tie space between the mast and wall is fully planked or guardrails are installed.
9. Do not exceed maximum load limitations (capacity) for the configuration of the MCWP you are operating. Consult the operations manual for the maximum platform loading diagram.
10. Ensure that the maximum allowable number of persons on the platform has not been exceeded. Ensure that the minimum required number of persons are on the platform.
11. The operating manual(s) shall be stored and maintained on the platform at all times.
12. Do not erect, use, operate, or dismantle the MCWP if you are under the influence of drugs, alcohol or other substances.
13. Ensure that no material or person(s) project beyond or overhang the platform guardrails.
14. Personnel shall maintain a firm footing on the platform floor while working thereon. Use of ladders on the MCWP for achieving additional height or reach shall be prohibited. Any other device to achieve additional height shall be used only with the written approval of the manufacturer.
15. Means shall be established to prohibit access and use by unauthorized person(s).
16. Do not operate a MCWP with any electrical, engine or hydraulic panel or door open. Make sure all electrical, engine and hydraulic components are in proper and safe operating condition.
17. On an internal combustion engine powered MCWP, ensure that an appropriate fire extinguisher is present.
18. Never take chances! If in doubt regarding safety or use of the MCWP, consult your supplier.
19. Ensure that an evacuation / rescue plan is in place as required.

* This Code of Safe Practices covers some common sense procedures for safely erecting, dismantling and using Mast Climbing Work Platforms. Since equipment differs, comply with the instructions and procedures of the supplier and manufacturer(s) of the equipment.

* Since field conditions vary, and are beyond the control of the Scaffold Industry Association and Mast Climbing Council, safe and proper use of the Mast Climbing Work Platform is the sole responsibility of the employer and user.