



Safety Advice 05(b)-2011(Aug)(NZ)

The appended Transpower Safety Alert dated 26 August 2011 is shared with the electricity supply industry via EEA's Safety Advice System courtesy of Transpower, for preventive purposes. This Safety Advice 05(b), which concerns the fatal mobile EWP (MEWP) incident on 02 June 2011, supersedes the earlier EEA Safety Advices (5) and (5)(a). EEA strongly recommends that Safety Advice 5(b) be known and understood by all persons associated with the use of this equipment in the wider electricity supply industry.

Included among management and practice improvements associated with MEWP use, the appended Transpower Safety Alert alludes to minimum Transpower competency specifications in the use of this equipment. These are contained in proprietary Transpower specification documents. It is anticipated that an EEA Safety Strategy Policy Group review of this incident will include coverage of these minimum competence requirements, and any recommendations for the wider industry will be shared in due course.

See Transpower Safety Alert 26 August 2011 next page...

Use of Mobile Elevated Work Platforms

SAFETY ALERT – ICAR 8920

What happened?

On the 2nd of June 2011, an Electrix employee died when the Manitou (all-terrain forklift with man cage attached) he was working on tipped over while working aloft.

Initial causes – what we know at this stage?

The appropriateness of the plant and staff awareness are likely causal factors. Another key learning is for the operators of Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWP) are to be fully aware of the operating limits of the plant being used.

Immediate action taken

A First Alert was issued banning the use of All Terrain Forklifts with work platforms such as Manitou Rough Terrain Vehicles on Transpower line sites. A second First Alert was issued on the 9th of June banning the use of certain Elevated Work Platforms without four stabilisers (excluding scissor lifts).

On the 27th of June a Working Group was established consisting of several service provider representatives and Transpower to review and develop appropriate guidelines for the use of MEWPs while working on Transpower assets.

The Working Group recommendations listed below supersede all prior MEWP Alerts. The following operational requirements are to be implemented and individual employers are to confirm the following:

1. Material Handlers (such as Telehandlers) will not be used as MEWPs unless fitted with a purpose built smart basket, control systems and interlocks that comply with AS/NZS 1418 Part 10 2011.
2. All Service Providers are to ensure that all employees and contractors who are required to use MEWPs have completed the training requirements as stipulated in TP.SS 06.21, and TP.SS 06.20.
3. All Service Provider employees and contractors who are required to use MEWPs are to be re-certified as competent by their employer to operate specific types of MEWPs that will be used on Transpower sites. Employers need to ensure that all employees are aware of all manufacturers' operational parameters for the plant or equipment concerned.
4. All external MEWP training will be based on relevant NZQA Unit Standards.
5. Recipients of hired MEWPs shall ensure adequate training, documentation and familiarisation is carried out. Adequate information regarding the safe operating limits of the MEWP is to be available.
6. When travelling, all MEWPs must be in the fully stowed position unless a specific risk assessment and method statement have been approved by a Senior Service Provider Manager.
7. MEWPs without outriggers can only be used when fitted with safety systems designed to prevent exceeding manufacturer's allowable incline or overloading. Safety interlocks must include fully functional Level Sensor, Load Sensing Systems and provide safe operation within manufacturers prescribed safe working limits as per AS/NZS 1418 Part 10 2011.
8. Where fitted, stabilising outriggers on MEWPs are to be used at all times.
9. Full body fall arrest harness with energy absorbing lanyards shall be worn and attached to a certified attachment point in the platform when operating all MEWPs.

For more information, please contact:

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Date of Safety Alert issue:

26 August 2011

Safety alerts are advisory only. They contain information limited to what is known at the date of issue about what happened, initial causes and immediate action taken. This information may change following formal investigation.