



## Access Equipment Guidance for Covid-19

**During the Covid-19 pandemic all work carried out at height should be conducted in strict compliance with the current legislation to avoid accidents and placing extra pressure on our already stretched National Health Service.**

**The following guidance is to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus while erecting, using and dismantling access equipment.**

### Scaffolding

Scaffold should only be erected by a reputable scaffolding company using CISRS trained scaffolders.

- The method for the erection and dismantling of the scaffold should be discussed and agreed with the client prior to works commencing.
- To accompany any Risk Assessment and Method Statements (RAMS) received from the scaffold contractor, you should also request confirmation on how they are going to follow the Covid-19 guidance.
- Handover certificates should be emailed and signed electronically. Future scaffold inspections should be planned with the scaffolder to ensure social distancing is maintained.
- Confirm in advance who is going to provide any plant required by the scaffold company as well as the necessary cleaning requirement of the plant.
- If more than one operative needs to use the piece of plant at any one time, where possible use scissor lifts rather than cherry pickers to install the scaffold. This is so that social distancing is maintained.
- Plan work in advance to limit the times when two persons need to pass or work within two metres of each other.
- Scaffold access and egress points should be cleaned and sanitised regularly. Provision should be made for the scaff tag to be easily checked but without touching.
- When lifting or lowering materials using gin wheels or MEWP's, operatives on the ground must stand a safe distance away from the load so that they are out of the 'line of fire' of any potential dropped objects. They should also maintain minimum social distancing requirements.

### Hiring Access Equipment

When hiring access equipment such as mobile towers or ladders make sure you liaise with your hire company and client to agree a safe place to deliver and store the access equipment.

- Only undertake the unloading/loading of the access equipment if social distancing rules can be maintained.
- Request confirmation from the hire company that the equipment has been cleaned and sanitised before delivery.
- If no guarantee can be given with regards to the cleanliness of the equipment, have a documented process in place to ensure that the equipment is thoroughly cleaned prior to use.
- After checking all the components are correct for the access equipment that has been delivered, record this process by photographs/video on your phone or by confirming electronically rather than signing for them on the delivery form.
- Make sure you have the skills, knowledge, training, and experience to erect, use and dismantle the access equipment that you have hired.
- Always wear gloves when touching the equipment and clean and sanitise multi-touch points such as ladders, handrails, and access hatches.
- Always clean the equipment before use and at the end of the working day as you do not know who will touch the equipment while you are not present.
- Where possible, store the access equipment in a location where it will not be used, damaged, or touched by others while you are not on site.

### Mobile Elevating Working Platforms (MEWP)

All MEWP work requires a safe system of work based on a risk assessment and must include an additional hazard of the Coronavirus including:

- Cleaning and sanitising what you will have to touch—MEWP controls, guardrails, charging/fuelling points and the emergency controls.
  - If you are using a harness and lanyard within the MEWP, ensure that the connection points that you touch between the lanyard and the connection point is also cleaned.
  - Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose and lips.
  - Where more than one worker needs to use the platform to undertake the task, use a scissor lift rather than a cherry picker, if possible.
  - If possible, only have one person in the basket of a cherry picker at any one time to ensure that social distancing is maintained.
  - If using a truck-mounted cherry picker, check whether the operator can use the boom controls from ground level rather than standing in the basket with you.
- Always clean the equipment before use and at the end of the working day as you do not know who will touch the equipment while you are not present.
  - Undertake and record your daily and weekly checks electronically rather than on paper that may be passed between different people.
  - Try to ensure that the same gang of workers utilise the same MEWP daily, where possible.
  - Wear appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) as identified by your risk assessment. This may include gloves, face covering, eye protection or Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) if the task being undertaken requires it.
  - Where possible, store the access equipment in a location where it will not be used, damaged, or touched by others while you are not on site.

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