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10th Edition

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UPDATED GROUND CONDITIONS GUIDANCE

One of the key conditions for aerial work platform stability is the ability of the ground or structure to safely support the weight of the aerial lift at its point of contact with the ground in all configurations. Failure to consider the load bearing capacity of the ground can cause the platform to become unstable and overturn.

The updated guidance: 'The Assessment of Ground Conditions and Supporting Structures for The Safe Use of MEWPs' provides information on the assessment of ground conditions and supporting structures to ensure they are sufficient to safely support the use of the aerial work platform's ground bearing pressures. It identifies different types of ground and floors and provides guidance on how to assess the suitability of the ground/floor before and during aerial work platform operation.

The document highlights and identifies:

- The relevant hazards and associated risks for those who plan work operations on various types of ground and suspended floors.
- Measures that can be implemented to eliminate or reduce the risk of an incident or injury before, and while operating a platform.

IPAF's head of safety and technical Brian Parker said: "Aerial work platform overturns continue to be a major cause of serious injuries and fatalities in our industry. With the launch of our Global Safety Campaign - 'Stop Overturns: Safety Starts on the Ground!' - we are reinforcing a crucial message: ground conditions matter."

IPAF SHORTLISTED FOR ASSOCIATION AND INSTITUTES AWARDS 2025

The International Powered Access Federation has been shortlisted for the Member Engagement & Communications Award in the Irish Association and Institutes Awards.

IPAF's shortlisting for the award was driven by IPAF's Irish country manager, Damien O'Connor. Since joining the company in 2023, he has raised awareness, driven engagement, and helped foster cultural change across Ireland's powered access industry.

O'Connor said: "It is an honour to be representing IPAF as we are shortlisted for this award, and I want to thank IPAF members and colleagues for giving me the opportunity to make a difference and support them across the island of Ireland. My aim is to help to drive change and improve the safety culture around the use of powered access equipment with the goal of ensuring each and every person involved in the using the equipment gets to go home safely at the end of their workday."

IPAF managing director Peter Douglas added: "This recognition is a testament to the hard work of our team - especially Damien - for driving meaningful engagement with our members. Through his persistence, leadership, and collaborative approach, he has significantly expanded IPAF's presence and impact across Ireland."

The winners will be announced on 12th June at the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire.



Damien O'Connor

TOOLBOX TALKS

'MEWP FAMILIARISATION'

Operators must complete/have received familiarisation training when using work platforms that differ significantly in terms of weight, height, length or complexity from the platform they were originally trained on. This requirement applies to all personnel involved with the platform, including operators, supervisors, rescue personnel, technicians and demonstrators.

Operating unfamiliar equipment without proper familiarisation can lead to accidents, such as unexpected platform movements or incorrect outrigger setup.



Who needs to know?

- Site managers, supervisors and demonstrators
- Operators
- Nominated ground control rescue personnel

Never attach a banner to a work platform

Aerial work platforms are not designed or intended as advertising display boards, they are designed to elevate people along with their tools and equipment to a work at height from within the safe confines of the platform.

Attaching a sign or banner to a work platform will potentially make it unstable causing the machine to overturn, which often results in serious injuries to people and damage to property.

Wind speed often increases the higher you go, as well as between buildings or objects due to the wind funnel effect. What feels like low wind on the ground may be very different at the height to which the platform is raised.

Who needs to know?

- Site managers, supervisors and demonstrators
- Operators

Download all safety resources and accompanying posters from the IPAF website.

