

ALERT: New Standards for Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs)

The long-standing safe use standard for MEWPs has been updated. AS 2550.10:2025 supersedes the 2006 version and introduces stricter requirements for operator competency, maintenance documentation, and technical safety protocols to align with modern industry practices.

Key Changes You Need to Know

- **Heightened Maintenance Focus:** There is now a significant emphasis on maintaining MEWPs strictly according to the **manufacturer's instructions**.
- **Detailed Competency Roles:** The standard now provides specific criteria for various "competent person" roles, including those responsible for supervision (Clause 1.4.3), rescue (Clause 1.4.6), and conducting major inspections (Clause 1.4.5).
- **Enhanced Operational Guidance:** New, definitive guidance has been added regarding:
 - The use of fall arrest systems and restraint devices.
 - Procedures for leaving a platform in an elevated position.
 - Safety protocols for travelling while the platform is elevated.
- **Revised Inspection Processes:** The major inspection process (Clause 6.3.5) has been restructured to ensure the identification and assessment of all **critical components**, such as structural members and safety-critical systems.
- **Updated Technical Requirements:** New sections address modern safety concerns, including:
 - Rescue Planning: Detailed requirements for documented rescue plans and trained rescuers (Clauses 2.3.1, 2.3.2).
 - Wind Speed Limits: MEWPs must now have a minimum wind speed rating of 12.5 m/s to be used in exposed areas.
 - **Insulated MEWPs:** Maintenance requirements for insulated machines (formerly in AS/NZS 1418.10) are now incorporated directly into Appendix C.

Action Items

1. **Update Safety Manuals:** Review your current safe work method statements (SWMS) and operational manuals to ensure they reference the 2025 edition rather than the 2006 version.
2. **Verify Competencies:** Ensure staff assigned to supervision, inspection, or rescue meet the specific "Competent Person" definitions outlined in the new standard.
3. **Audit Maintenance Records:** Check that your major inspections and routine maintenance are being recorded and conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's latest specifications.



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