

BS 8460:2017



BSI Standards Publication

**Code of practice for the safe
use of MEWPs**

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2017

ISBN 978 0 580 94324 9

ICS 53.020.99

The following BSI references relate to the work on this document:

Committee reference MHE/12

Draft for comment 17/30341837 DC

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
<hr/>	

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Summary of pages

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Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 October 2017. It was prepared by Technical Committee MHE/12, *Lifting Platforms*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This British Standard supersedes BS 8460:2005, which is withdrawn.

Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard, and introduces the following principal changes:

- new safe use recommendations, taking into account the latest edition of BS EN 280;
- enhanced recommendations for the risk management process;
- new subclauses for loading and unloading MEWPs and for operating MEWPs near sources of electromagnetic radiation in telecommunications;
- added recommendations for identifying the implications of new safety features on machines, such as telematics, data logging, load sensors, material-handling devices and machine security;
- new recommendations for the prevention of falls while carrying out maintenance on the machine chassis/structure, the prevention of entrapment, and the operation of secondary guarding;
- changes to reflect recent changes in legislation, e.g. the Construction Design and Manufacturing (CDM) Regulations 2015, and the replacement of HSE guidance CIS 58 with GEIS6, which references BS 8460;
- references given to various guidance documents from the Strategic Forum for Construction, Plant Safety Group on ground conditions, medical fitness to operate construction plant, avoiding trapping/crushing injuries, and inspection and thorough examination;
- new definitions for "primary guarding", "secondary guarding", "user" and "deck-riding";
- new informative annexes giving guidance on symbols for MEWPs, machine modifications and CE marking, and controls in addition to the platform controls;
- new normative annex on self-familiarization; and
- new annex giving an example of a rescue plan hierarchy.

This British Standard was drawn up with the participation of HSE representatives.

This British Standard calls for the use of procedures that can be injurious to health if adequate precautions are not taken. It refers only to technical suitability and does not absolve the user from legal obligations relating to health and safety at any stage.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

The word “should” is used to express recommendations of this standard. The word “may” is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. as an alternative to the primary recommendation of the clause. The word “can” is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes and commentaries are provided throughout the text of this standard. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations. Commentaries give background information.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Particular attention is drawn to the following specific regulations:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 [1];
- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998 [2];
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998 [3];
- Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 (as amended) [4];
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 (as amended) [5];
- Construction (Design and Management Regulations) 2015 [6].

Details of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 [2] and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 [3], together with an HSE Approved Code of Practice and HSE Guidance, are given in HSE publications *Safe use of lifting equipment* [7] and *Safe use of work equipment* [8].

1 Scope

This British Standard gives recommendations and guidance for the selection, hiring, positioning, maintenance and thorough examination of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs). It also gives recommendations for the safe use of MEWPs, including the selection and training of operators and other personnel, together with guidance to assist in the selection of competent persons.

NOTE This British standard does not give recommendations for delivering persons and materials to fixed landing levels. Equipment intended for this purpose, such as lifts or hoists, are dealt with by other standards including BS EN 12158-1, Builders' hoists for goods – Hoists with accessible platforms, BS EN 12159, Builders hoists for persons and materials with vertically guided cages, and BS EN 81 (all parts), Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts.

This British Standard is not applicable to:

- mast climbing work platforms;
- fire-fighting and fire rescue appliances;
- non-integrated working platforms on forklift trucks of any type;
- lifting tables;
- suspended access equipment;
- building maintenance units;
- construction hoists;
- transport platforms;
- wind turbine and tower crane access lifts;
- belt and chain conveyors;
- capstan winches; or
- hoists powered by direct drive internal combustion engines.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 8437, *Code of practice for selection, use and maintenance of personal fall protection systems and equipment for use in the workplace*

BS EN ISO/IEC 17020, *Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 accessory

device attached to a work platform to assist with tasks being carried out from the work platform

NOTE Accessories might include secondary guarding, cladding carriers, camera pods, sign carriers, glazing carriers, lighting frames, advertising panels and pipe racks.