



ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

PO Box 1304 Mona Vale NSW 1660 P: 02 9998 2222 F: 02 9998 2299

E: info@ewpa.com.au W: www.ewpa.com.au ABN 32 545 830 419

TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: Phil Newby, Executive Director, EWPA Inc
DATE: 8 May 2012
COURT REF: 5335/08 [REDACTED]
RE: EWPA Inc Response to Coroners Recommendations



Recommendation 1:

That Safe Work Australia expand the National Standard for Licensing Persons Performing High Risk Work to require operators of a broader range of mobile elevating work platforms, such as scissor lifts, to hold a high risk work licence.

The Elevating Work Platform Association of Australia Inc (EWPA) does not believe that expansion of the national high risk licensing program will achieve the desired safety outcomes. The 'licence' is too broad in definition (eg 'boom type') whereas the EWPA Operator Training Program (Yellow Card) is product or type specific training, eg Scissor Lift, Self Propelled Boom Lift, Trailer Lift.

Recommendation 2:

That the Elevating Work Platform Association of Australia take necessary initiatives to ensure that plant hire companies stress to hirers of the hazards associated with operating elevating work platforms, and the vital importance of plant-specific operator training to reduce the risk of injury during use.

The EWPA Operator Training Program (Yellow Card) is a national scheme that is regularly reviewed. It has been in place in its current form since 2000 but started in 1989. It is a 'duty of care' proof of training scheme and over 220,000 operators have successfully completed the program since 2000. The training program is about to become nationally accredited with a specific unit of competency allowing a Certificate of Attainment to be issued.

The support material to this program for the trainee is a 'Using EWPs Safely' booklet (copy attached) which is regularly updated to include specific sections on powerlines, crushing and job safety analysis sheets.

All EWPA Accredited Trainers (350+) encourage trainees to keep a copy of this booklet with them and our rental fleet owners try and leave a copy on each EWP in the logbook pouch. The Logbook on the EWP is also used as a pre-operational checklist as well as a log for use, faults and repairs. It is on waterproof paper for longevity.

On the EWPA Webpage there are a number of public domain interactive training videos covering scissor lifts and trailer lifts. These compliment the training program but are often used as refresher courses by the users and encouraged to do so by the rental fleet owners (the link is: <http://www.ewpavideo.com.au/index.html>).

All trained operators are encouraged to use the EWPA Webpage to obtain other relevant information sheets, including the Policy on the Use of Fall Arrest Systems in EWPs (copy attached), and where to go to get EWPs repaired and serviced. Plus there is the usual alerts and news. This feature is reinforced to our members and trainers through our monthly newsletters.

The latest addition to the public area of the Website is the EWP Safe Supply and Use Information Pack. This has been developed to try and produce a consistent and relevant approach to ensure the risks are considered and the correct EWP is supplied. It is a three part document and all end users will be encouraged to download and use it free of charge from the Website (copy attached).

The EWPA believes these are in line with your specific recommendation.

**Recommendation 3:**

That WorkSafe Victoria conduct an education campaign, targeting employers to ensure their workers obtain training in the operation of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms for plant such as scissor lifts, which do not currently require a high risk work licence. The Yellow Card training program for example is one such avenue available to acquire training.

The growth of the use of EWPs will continue as they become a more affordable substitute for the more traditional access methods of ladders, trestles and scaffolding. This makes duty of care product training even more important at the front line level. Our hire members deal not only with construction sites but many other industries including events, warehousing, industrial, retail and the DIY market. It is emphasised that product training and familiarisation with the type of EWP being used is part of the pre-hire conditions. The nationally recognised 'Yellow Card' helps to keep the process consistent and improves safety awareness with the emphasis on identifying risks and hazards and controlling them.

Attachments:

1. Using EWPs Safely Booklet
2. Policy on the Use of Fall Arrest Systems in EWPs
3. EWP Safe Supply and Use Information Pack

Regards,

PHIL NEWBY
Executive Director