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**BS 8460:2025**



**BSI Standards Publication**

## **Safe use of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) – Code of practice**

**bsi.**

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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 30 November 2025. It was prepared by Subcommittee MHE/12/1, *Lifting platforms – Mobile elevating work platforms*, under the authority of Technical Committee MHE/12, *Lifting platforms*. A list of organizations represented on these committees can be obtained on request to the committee manager.

## Supersession

This British Standard supersedes [BS 8460:2017](#), which is withdrawn.

## Information about this document

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

- new safe use recommendations, taking into account [BS EN 280-1:2022](#) and [BS EN 280-2:2022](#);
- new process map on the safe use of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs);
- restructure of the content order in accordance with the process map;
- new or enhanced recommendations for:
  - the risk management process;
  - determining/establish the effect of wind;
  - using a MEWP as part of a fall arrest system;
  - fitting additional devices or equipment for loading and handling;
  - selection of MEWP for integrated load handling appliances;
  - system of work for operation of load handling appliances;
  - training for the use of MEWP handling appliances;
  - machines fitted with zone and motion control capability;
  - minimum attributes of personnel, including occupant of the platform and supervisor;
  - an extra stage in planning;
  - avoiding trapping and/or crushing of person(s) in the work platform;
  - secondary guarding;
  - pedestrian controlling during travelling; and
  - returning a MEWP to service after a period of non-use;
- new definitions for “lifting accessory”, “lifting equipment”, “load lifting appliance”, “load lifting jib”, “nominated ground rescue person”, “pedestrian controlling”, “temporary works”, “temporary works coordinator”;
- clarification of safe use for movement into confined work spaces, use of personal fall protection systems next to or over water, and segregation from pedestrians and other workers;
- new normative annex on hoist lift height limits; and
- new informative annex on wind speed in height.

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- premises owners;
- employers;
- managers/supervisors;
- operators; and
- trainers.

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.

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Where websites and webpages have been cited, they are provided for ease of reference and are correct at the time of publication. The location of a webpage or website, or its contents, cannot be guaranteed.

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As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of recommendations and guidance. It is not to be quoted as if it were a specification. Users are expected to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Users may substitute any of the recommendations in this British Standard with practices of equivalent or better outcome. Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

### **Presentational conventions**

The provisions of this document 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.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

### **Contractual and legal considerations**

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In 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];
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 [4];
- Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 (as amended) [5];
- Work at Height Regulations 2005 (as amended) [6];
- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 [7].

Details of LOLER 1998 [2] and PUWER 1998 [3], together with an HSE Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) and HSE guidance, are given in the respective HSE publications, *Safe use of lifting equipment* [8] and *Safe use of work equipment* [9].

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## Introduction

For design and safe use purposes, mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) are categorized into type and group.

A MEWP type refers to the method of travelling, which is defined as either self-propelled or manually-propelled.

The types of MEWP are divided according to their travel characteristics.

- a) Type 1 MEWPs are only allowed to travel with the platform in the stowed position.
- b) Type 2 MEWPs can travel with the platform in an elevated position and are controlled from the chassis area.
- c) Type 3 MEWPs can travel with the platform elevated but are controlled from within the work platform.

A MEWP group is determined by the position of the platform centre in relation to the MEWP's tipping line.

MEWPs are categorized into group A or group B, according to how the working platform elevates.

- 1) Group A lifts can only raise the platform vertically. This category includes scissor lifts and vertical lifts.
- 2) Group B lifts include all other MEWPs.

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## 1 Scope

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

It also gives recommendations for MEWPs of Type 1 Group B, which are designed for use with a load lifting appliance positioned on the extending structure or work platform, and provides additional guidance for the safe handling and positioning of loads.

*NOTE* This British Standard does not give recommendations for delivering person(s) and materials to fixed landing levels.

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;
- hoists powered by direct-drive internal combustion engines;
- the use of a MEWP for lifting persons as a suspended load;
- the use of a MEWP for lifting suspended loads while operating from a control position other than the work platform;
- lifting accessories; or
- lifting or lowering of suspended loads for general materials handling as carried out by a crane.

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## 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, or limits the application, of this document<sup>1)</sup>. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

[BS 7121-1](#), *Code of practice for safe use of cranes – Part 1: General*

[BS 7121-3](#), *Code of practice for safe use of cranes – Part 3: Mobile cranes*

[BS EN 280-1:2022](#), *Mobile elevating work platforms – Part 1: Design calculations – Stability criteria – Construction – Safety – Examinations and tests*

[BS EN 280-2:2022](#), *Mobile elevating work platforms – Part 2: Additional safety requirements for load lifting appliances on the extending lifting structure and work platform*

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<sup>1)</sup> Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.