ANSI A92 STANDARDS:

A 5-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE FOR EQUIPMENT USERS



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The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A92 standards, which govern the access equipment industry in the United States, underwent significant changes that went into effect on June 1, 2020. The ANSI A92 standards were updated to better align North American aerial equipment manufacturers with the global market and improve safety in the industry.

These updates impacted:

- Equipment terminology
- Machine design requirements
- Safe use practices
- Training protocols

Five years later, these standards continue to impact everyone who works with, in and around access equipment. Compliance with these standards is critical to mitigate safety hazards, lost time, fines and citations.

This whitepaper provides end users with a comprehensive overview of the key elements of these standards and what they need to know and do to maintain compliance.







UPDATED TERMINOLOGY

One of the most notable changes under the revised standards was the shift in industry terminology:

- **Aerial Work Platforms (AWPs)** are now called **Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs)**
- MEWPs are classified in **Groups A and B:**
    - **Group A:** MEWPs with platforms that move vertically but stay inside the tipping lines
    - **Group B:** All other MEWPs, typically boom-type MEWPs where the platform extends past the machine's chassis
- MEWPs are also classified by **Types 1, 2, or 3:**
    - **Type 1:** Can only travel in the stowed position
    - **Type 2:** Can travel elevated but is controlled from the chassis
    - **Type 3:** Can travel elevated but is controlled from the work platform









MACHINE DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

The machine design standards (ANSI A92.20) address the design, calculations, safety requirements, and testing methods of MEWPs. Key features now included in MEWP designs include:

- **Load Sensing Systems (LSS):** Machines actively monitor load and interrupt operations/sound an alarm if overloaded
- **Tilt Sensing Requirements:** MEWPs have tilt sensor alarms and function cutouts when out of slope
- **Wind Force Requirements:** Machines rated for outdoor use may have reduced platform capacities
- **Entrance Gates:** Flexible devices like chains are no longer acceptable; gates must be half-height, full-height, or saloon-style
- **Platform Railings:** Increased railing height requirement for small indoor scissor lifts
- **Machine Markings & Manuals:** Updated requirements for documentation and inspection records



SAFE USE STANDARDS

The safe use standards (ANSI A92.22) specify requirements for application, inspection, training, maintenance, repair, and safe operation of MEWPs. Key elements include:

Site Risk Assessment

All end users must develop a safe use program with site risk assessments. The seven stages of a site risk assessment are:

1. **Identify the Task:** Define what specific tasks need to be completed
2. **Select an Appropriate MEWP:** Choose equipment that matches application needs
3. **Assess Risks:** Evaluate MEWP-related, job-specific, and additional risks
4. **Identify Control Measures:** Implement procedures to mitigate identified risks
5. **Identify Safe Work Procedures:** Plan safe work methods based on previous steps
6. **Rescue from Height:** Develop a written rescue plan that includes self-rescue, assisted rescue, and technical rescue options
7. **Communicate Results:** Share assessment findings with all involved partiesOther Safe Use Requirements

Site Risk Assessment

- **Annual Inspection:** The owner must maintain a means to identify when the last annual inspection was performed
- **Fall Protection:** All Group B MEWP operators and occupants must use personal fall arrest or restraint systems
- **Familiarization:** Operators must be familiarized with the specific MEWP model they will use

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The training standards (ANSI A92.24) provide guidance on preparing MEWP training materials, delivering theoretical and practical training and identifying required elements for proper training and familiarization.

Training requirements now extend beyond **Operators** to also include:

- **Supervisors:** People who directly supervise MEWP operators
- **Occupants:** People in the MEWP platform who are not considered operators
- **Maintenance & Repair Personnel:** People servicing MEWPs

Operator Training

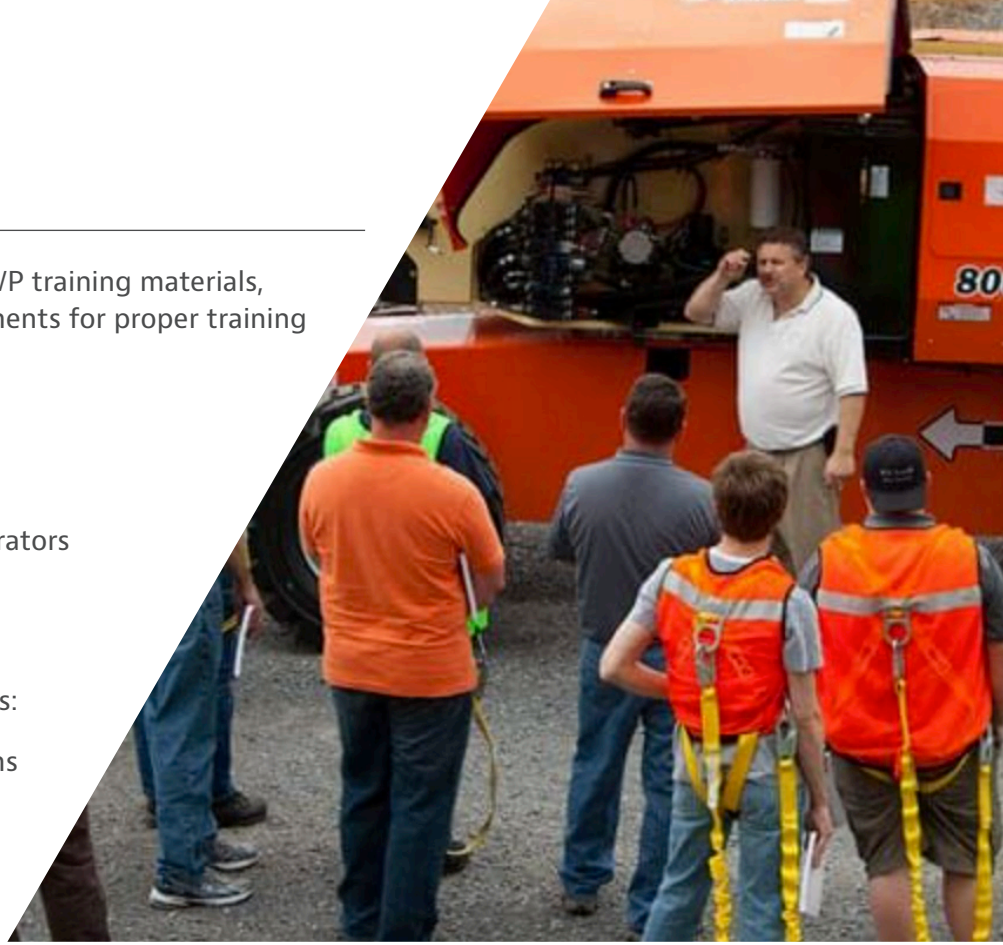
Operator training must include both theoretical and practical components:

- **Theory Training:** Covers safe use as defined in A92.22 and specific items listed in A92.24
- **Practical Training:** Includes MEWP operation for a sufficient period to demonstrate proficiency

Supervisor Training

Supervisors must be trained in:

- Proper MEWP selection
- Rules, regulations, and standards that apply to MEWPs
- Potential hazards and how to protect against them
- Where the manufacturer's operation manuals should be stored and how they should be used





Occupant Knowledge

Occupants must have knowledge of:

- How to use fall protection and the location of fall protection anchors
- How their actions could affect stability
- Safe use of MEWP accessories they are assigned to use
- Site-specific work procedures and hazard avoidance
- Basic knowledge of MEWP controls and emergency procedures

Maintenance & Repair Personnel

Maintenance and repair personnel must be properly trained to inspect and maintain MEWPs, including an overview of the equipment to accurately identify the key differences with the Groups and Types.

Training should also include familiarization with the main components, systems and functions of these machines, such as:

- Electrical Systems
- Hydraulic Systems
- Mechanical Systems
- Wiring and Control Systems
- Diagnostics and Troubleshooting
- Preventive Maintenance
- Warranty Work







5 YEARS LATER: WHAT EQUIPMENT USERS NEED TO KNOW NOW

Industry awareness and compliance remain inconsistent five years after the implementation of the ANSI A92 standards.

Here's what equipment users need to focus on today:

Training

- Ensure all personnel who interact with MEWPs have received appropriate training according to their role
- Maintain proper documentation of all training activities
- Implement regular evaluation of operator proficiency
- Consider utilizing industry training resources such as those offered by equipment manufacturers

Record Retention

+ Some companies may not be aware of the “Record Retention” requirements in the standards
+ Implement systems to store all training records in one convenient location

Site Risk Assessments

+ Continue to conduct comprehensive worksite assessments before starting jobs
+ Practice creating these assessments and share results to benefit from others’ insights

Safe Use Program

+ Ensure a written Safe Use program is in place and used daily
+ Provide familiarization on any A92.20-designed machine to cover new controls and operating characteristics



COMPLIANCE IS STILL CRITICAL

The ANSI A92 standards continue to influence machine designs and training and safe use requirements. These were not a one-time implementation but an ongoing commitment to safety and compliance. Equipment users must stay informed about these standards and ensure that all personnel who work with, in, and around MEWPs are properly trained and follow the required safe use practices.

By focusing on comprehensive training, proper documentation, thorough site risk assessments and consistent implementation of safe use programs, equipment users can ensure compliance with the ANSI A92 standards and create safe work environments for everyone involved with MEWPs.



JLG'S RESPONSE TO THE STANDARDS

At JLG, we believe compliance to the updated ANSI A92 standards is critical and should not be taken lightly — or ignored. We will continue to lead by example, and we are committed to helping everyone in the industry adhere to the standards with our compliant equipment and comprehensive training offerings.

Learn More About ANSI A92

