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STANDARD FOR THE SAFETY OF AERIAL WORK PLATFORM OPERATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE

Establish the criteria for the acquisition, inspection, training, maintenance, testing and operation of Panama Canal Authority (PCA) aerial work platforms.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

None.

3.0 SCOPE

This Standard applies to the use of aerial work platforms by employees, contractors and third parties within areas under PCA jurisdiction.

4.0 LEGAL FOUNDATION

This Standard is based on Agreement No. 12 of the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Authority, Hazard Control and Occupational Health Regulations, Chapter I, Article 3.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

5.1 Aerial Work Platforms: Adjustable work platforms with telescopic or scissor type joints, supported by brackets, and connected to a motorized mobile base.

5.2 Capacity: The maximum weight (including materials and tools) that may be carried on the platform

5.3 Inspector: A person trained in personnel lift inspection techniques by a national or internationally recognized organization.

5.4 Maximum height of equipment: The vertical distance measured from the floor of the platform to the surface supporting the mobile equipment.

5.5 Critical deficiencies: Any failure in the equipment considered an imminent danger to life, health, and property.

5.6 Competent Person: A person who has received formal training on platform operation safety standards and procedures established by the manufacturer of the equipment.

5.7 Daily inspections. Inspections conducted by the equipment operator at the beginning of his work shift, on the basis of the recommendations of the equipment manufacturer.

6.0 GENERAL

6.1 General requirements

6.1.1 A copy of the manufacturer's manual shall be available with the equipment.

6.1.2 Operating instruction or safety warning placards or decals posted on the aerial work platform may not be erased, removed or covered up.

6.1.3 All safety warning decals must be legible, clear, and properly marked.

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6.1.4 The minimum distance between the equipment and electrical power lines shall be shown on the control panel.

6.2 Specific operating requirements.

6.2.1 The equipment must only be operated by competent personnel.

6.2.2 If there is more than one person in the platform, there must be a designated operator.

6.2.3 While the platform is being moved, there shall not be any part of a person's body outside of the basket.

6.2.4 The route to follow to arrive at the work site must be determined prior to the moving the equipment. Signaling arrows shall be visible to the equipment operator at all times from any elevation or position.

6.2.5 A ladder or any other type of support may never be used to gain more height or reach.

6.2.6 Personnel working from the platform may not be belted off to an exterior structure.

6.2.7 Personal protection equipment against falls shall be anchored to the work platform.

6.2.8 The load capacity of the platform may never be exceeded.

6.2.9 The surface of the platform and the platform access ladders shall be non-slipping.

6.2.10 All aerial work platforms shall have an alarm that automatically warns the operator of the equipment when the platform is working on terrain with an inclination equal or greater than five degrees.

6.2.11 If there are doubts about the operation of the equipment, see the manufacturer's operating manual.

6.3 Equipment Inspections

6.3.1 Daily inspections shall be visual and working inspections, and shall but not be limited to, the following:

6.3.1.1 Operation of emergency controls.

6.3.1.2 Operation of safety devices.

6.3.1.3 Status of personal protection equipment, including fall protection equipment and anchoring points in the basket.

6.3.1.4 Air, oil or fuel leaks.

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- 6.3.1.5 Loose or missing parts.
- 6.3.1.6 Tire and wheel conditions.
- 6.3.1.7 The condition of operating instructions and safety warning signs.
- 6.3.1.8 Stabilizer and outrigger operation (as applicable)
- 6.3.1.9 Guardrail condition.
- 6.3.1.10 Other items as specified by the manufacturer of the equipment.

6.3.3 Annual inspections.

6.3.3.1 The Elevating Equipment Inspector, Safety and Industrial Hygiene Unit (RSHH) shall perform an annual inspection of aerial work platforms

6.4 Work area inspection

6.4.1 The aerial work platform operator shall inspect the equipment work site and terrain to detect and remove any potential hazards.

6.4.2 Hazards include, but are not limited to:

- 6.4.2.1 Holes, drop-offs, or ramps.
- 6.4.2.2 Beams, ceilings, or overhead obstructions that limit work clearances.
- 6.4.2.3 Electrical installations, posts, aerial power lines.
- 6.4.2.4 Hazardous locations, such as areas with flammable vapors, poor visibility, intense traffic of other equipment and vehicles.
- 6.4.2.5 Unauthorized persons in the area.
- 6.4.2.6 Environmental conditions, such as electrical storms.
- 6.4.2.7 Debris such as nails, iron scrap, obstacles.

6.5 Acquisition of equipment

6.5.1 All equipment purchases shall be verified by the Elevating Equipment Inspector, RSHH and the Manager of the Section that owns the equipment to confirm that it adequate for its intended use.

6.6 Operator Training

6.6.1 All aerial work platform operators shall receive formal training on the procedures in this Standard and the operating procedures specified by the equipment manufacturer.

6.6.2 Contractor shall provide training for their own employees.

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6.7 Equipment Maintenance

6.7.1 All units with aerial work platforms shall have preventive maintenance programs.

6.7.2 Preventive maintenance programs are based on manufacturer recommendations, the frequency of use, and the environment in which the equipment is used.

6.7.3 All damage or equipment malfunction shall be repaired prior to the use of an aerial work platform.

7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 Operator responsibilities:

7.1.1 Give full consideration to his own safety and the safety of all platform occupants at all times.

7.1.2 Read and understand the platform operations manual provided.

7.1.3 Inspect the equipment prior to startup.

7.1.4 Inspect the work area before operating the equipment.

7.2 Supervisor responsibilities:

7.2.1 Ensure the safe operation of aerial work platform equipment.

7.2.2 Ensure the proper training of operators.

7.2.3 Follow up on any damage reported by operators.

7.2.4 Keep equipment records, including daily inspection records.

7.2.5 Follow the procedures described in this Standard.

7.3 Inspector responsibilities:

7.3.1 Conduct an annual inspection of the equipment.

7.3.2 Keep annual and special inspection records.

7.3.3 Inspect aerial work platform equipment on lease by the Panama Canal Authority.

7.3.4 Coordinate periodic operator training in conjunction with immediate supervisors and the Training and Development Division.

8.0 INQUIRIES

Any information or clarification of the content or application of this Standard must be requested in writing to the Safety and Industrial Hygiene Unit (RHSI).



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9.0 EXCEPTIONS

Any requests for changes or temporary exceptions to this Standard must be made in writing to the Safety and Industrial Hygiene Unit (RHSH).

10.0 TERM

This Standard shall remain in force until amended or revised.

11.0 REFERENCES

- 11.1 Boom–Supported Elevating Work Platforms ANSI A92.5, 1992 Edition.