



MIOSHA Fact Sheet

Construction Safety & Health Division

Aerial Work Platforms:

Use On Barges

In September 2013, MIOSHA amended Construction Safety Standard [Part 32 Aerial Work Platforms](#) and rescinded Rule 3216 (21) which prohibited placing an aerial work platform (AWP) on a barge or floating vessel. Prior to this rescission, employers were required to obtain a variance for this work operation. Even though a variance is no longer required, the equipment and conditions must be carefully evaluated by a qualified person to ensure the operation is safe. The following rules and requirements specifically apply to this work operation:

- Rule 3216 (1) An AWP shall be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions and safety rules. (Manufacturers consider this an authorized operation and have established specific criteria for its use.)
- Rule 3216(8) - An AWP shall be elevated only when on a firm and level surface or within the slope limits allowed by the manufacturer's instructions.
- Rule 3204a – Adopted ANSI standards: A92.3 Manually Propelled Elevating Work Platforms, 2006 edition; A92.5 Boom-Supported Elevating Work Platforms, 2006 edition; and A92.6 Self-Propelled Elevating Work Platforms, 1999 edition. These standards require the work operation to be approved by a qualified person or approved in writing by the manufacturer when placing an AWP on a barge or floating vessel.
- Rule 3207 - Employers must provide the operator of an AWP with specific training and issue a permit.
- Rule 114 (2) in [Part 1 General Rules](#) – The employer must train their employees in accordance with all the required elements, (e.g., operating procedures and hazards, inspection of work site and equipment to, recognize, avoid and eliminate hazards.)

Each work operation and conditions will be unique. The following are additional questions that a qualified person must take into consideration when establishing guidelines and procedures for this type of work operation.

- What is the maximum capacity of the barge?
- Are there specific recommendations required by the barge manufacturer?
- Will the aerial lift will be stationary or secured on the barge?
- Is the weight of the AWP (plus the rated working load) imposing any potential damage, unexpected or excessive list, or overloading to the barge?
- Is the surface capable of supporting the load in all configurations? (Be aware that in certain configurations, up to 80 percent of the AWP equipment's weight may be on one tire or outrigger.)
- Are there specific recommendations required by the AWP manufacturer or in the operator's manual?
- Does the work require horizontal forces that are within the AWP manufacturer's rated capacity?
- What is the expected wind speed and what does the manufacturer specify as a maximum wind speed rating for that specific unit?
- Have employees received training for inspections, use, and any limitations for the equipment while being operated from a barge?

- Was there a pre-use meeting at the site to ensure all employees involved are aware of any specific condition or restrictions while using the AWP on the barge?
- Are the weather and water conditions being monitored on a daily basis by a qualified person? Will work operations be suspended if adverse weather/water conditions affect the safety of the operator, crew or work operation?
- Is there a rescue plan in place?
- Is the appropriate personal protective equipment available?
- Is the use of Fall Protection or an approved life jacket or buoyant vest more protective?

If you need additional assistance, please contact the Construction Safety and Health Division at 517-322-1856 or the Consultation Education and Training Division at 517-322-1809. Construction Safety Standards and other information can be viewed on the MIOSHA website at www.michigan.gov/miosha.

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