

MIOSHA Fact Sheet

Aerial Work Platforms: Use on Barges



September 2013, MIOSHA amended Construction Safety Standards [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 Aerial Work Platforms](#) and rescinded Rule 3216(21) which prohibited placing an aerial work platform (AWP) on a barge or floating vessel.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) states, “The aerial work platform shall be used only in accordance with the manufacturer’s or owners operating instructions and safety rules.” Manufacturers’ consider use on barges an authorized operation and have established specific criteria.
- Rule 3216(8) states, “Aerial work platforms shall be elevated only when on 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; A92.2 Vehicle Mounted-Elevating and Rotating Aerial Devices, 2001 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)(a) in Construction Safety Standards [Part 1. General Rules](#): The employer must provide instruction to each employee regarding the operating procedures, hazards, and safeguards of tools and equipment when necessary to perform the job.

Each work operation and its 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.

- What is the maximum capacity of the barge?
- Are there specific recommendations required by the barge manufacturer?
- Will the aerial lift 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?
- 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 the specific unit?
- Have employees received training for inspections, use, and any limitations of the equipment while being operated from a barge?

LEO is an equal opportunity employer/program.

- 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 an as needed 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 being used appropriately?
- Is compliance with other standards occurring?

If you need additional assistance, please contact the Construction Safety and Health Division at 517-284-7680 or the Consultation Education and Training Division at 517-284-7720. Construction Safety and Health Standards and other information can be viewed on the MIOSHA website at www.michigan.gov/miosha.