

MIOSHA Fact Sheet

Aerial Work Platforms: Use on Barges



In September 2013, MIOSHA amended the Construction Standard [Part 32, Aerial Work Platforms](#). When an aerial work platform (AWP) is placed on a barge or floating vessel, 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 manufacturers or owners operating instructions and safety rules.” Most AWP 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 a firm and level surface or within the slope limits allowed by the manufacturer’s instructions.”
- Rule 3204a – Adopted the following American National Standard Institute (ANSI) standards:
 - ANSI standard A92.3 Manually Propelled Elevating Aerial Platforms, 2006 edition.
 - ANSI standard A92.5 Boom-Supported Elevating Work Platforms, 2006 edition.
 - ANSI standard A92.2 Vehicle-Mounted Elevating and Rotating Aerial Devices, 2001 edition.
 - ANSI standard 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 Standard [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, will there be an unexpected or excessive lift, 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 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 <http://www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards>.