

## **Is 2018 the time to consider stopping the use of 'Fork Mounted Work Platforms' for Telehandlers and Industrial Fork Lifts.**

With the impending changes in 2018 in the USA, ANSI A92.20 Standards that will incorporate more of the 'state of knowledge' safety features that are already incorporated in ISO16368 and AS/NZS1418.10 2011. Aerial Work Platform fleets will eventually be closer in functionality and have similar safety-critical features. With a larger global population of work platforms 1.35 million rental and approximately 150,000 end user owned platforms and the global manufacturing plants being able to supply all types and sizes of platforms, is it time to consider stopping the use of Fork Mounted Work Platforms? This does not include Telehandler carriage mounted 'Integrated Platforms' with interlocks.

There have been too many incidents - NO, they cannot be classified as accidents - with fork mounted platforms on forklifts and telehandlers. Homemade pallet platforms are even worse. In industrialised countries, where there are many elevating work platforms available to own and rent, why do operators, users, supervisors and owners take the risk and put persons on the platform and persons in the vicinity, in danger from injury and fatality.

The Internet - Verikal.net, YouTube etc... have articles, videos and photos of incidents and failures to help your company understand the consequences of using 'fork mounted platforms'. None of them are pretty, there is always a potential for an incident, or even worse injury and fatality.

The reasons for asking the global safety and regulatory persons and entities to stop the use of 'Fork Mounted Platforms' are;

1. The global supply of aerial work platforms exceeded 1.5 million in mid 2018. There are enough work platforms available in all markets to replace the use of fork mounted platforms. [www.ipaf.org/en/news/2018/06/ipaf-report-shows-continuing-boom-mewp-rental-market](http://www.ipaf.org/en/news/2018/06/ipaf-report-shows-continuing-boom-mewp-rental-market)
2. Forklift operators require training and in some countries a high risk work license. Forklifts need to have compliance plates showing forklift manufacturer's approval of use with work platforms and fitted with flow restrictor in lift cylinder to prevent uncontrolled lowering. [www.safework.sa.gov.au/news/forklift-work-platforms](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au/news/forklift-work-platforms)
3. The cost of battery powered or engine powered forklift, plus a trained operator to sit at the controls, outweighs the cost of a scissor lift or vertical lift platform that would be able to reach the roller door, overhead crane or lighting systems etc in a building. If a forklift can fit in the space, a proper work platform will easily be able to fit in the same space and most models are able to travel while elevated.
4. Forklifts and telehandlers normally do not have level sensors to cut out lift functions and do not have automatic applied brakes when the lift functions are operated.

5. Forklifts and 'man cage' combinations have 'harness system' attachment points. What type of harness systems are worn by those in the platform? Is it a restraint harness or a fall-arrest harness? Has the forklift/man cage (Work platform) combination been tested for fall arrest overturning test or does the harness anchor point have rating labels? <https://youtu.be/62oU4UVOa2A>

6. Major construction sites working under and around structures ask for compliant 'secondary guarding systems' on the platform. A 'Man Cage' mounted on the tines of a forklift or telehandler do not have these specialised secondary guarding systems and rely on the operator sitting in the forklift seat to control all the movements.

7. Industrial forklifts that have mast tilt can usually only tilt the mast forward/backward several degrees, and this has some risk of tipping the fork mounted platform off the forks. There are normally NO interlock systems on the attachment systems on forklifts. <https://youtu.be/FmHMeVTeaF4>

8. On telehandlers, the fork tilt can be up to 75 degrees and the speed for tipping when used in bucket function can be fast enough to tip operators out of the man cages. If the fork mounted platforms are not attached correctly, the platform can slide off. (Integrated platforms are carriage mounted and have interlocks and platform control systems on telehandlers, speed control on fork tilt and require stabilizer activation). [www.constructionequipment.com/accept-telehandler-limits-lifting-people](http://www.constructionequipment.com/accept-telehandler-limits-lifting-people)

9. ANSI A92.20 draft shows the different Types and Groups of aerial work platforms as used in EN280, ISO16368 and ASNZS1418.10 2011. Interestingly as an example of Type 2, Group A MEWP, a Straddle Stacker with a fork mounted platform is shown. Does this 'straddle stacker' include all the safety critical devices required in ANSI A92.20 Draft. So, can this device be regarded as a 'forklift' or a platform?

10. Would your Insurance company regard the use of a 'Fork Mounted Work Platform' as not being 'Best Practice' and the latest 'State of Knowledge' for the safety outcomes required on an Industrial, Maintenance or Construction work site. Is your company prepared to defend the use of a fork mounted work platform, when aerial work platforms are easily available to complete the required task. Where is the recognised training for the 'use, Inspection and maintenance' of fork mounted platforms.

Yours

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**Online examples and information:**

*Fall Arrest Overturning Test as seen on YouTube.* <https://youtu.be/62oU4UVOa2A>

[www.vertikal.net/uploads/tx\\_filelinks/The-consequences-of-operating-Telehandlers-with-man-platforms-on-inclines-soft-ground-and-unsupported-surfaces-Issue-01-May-2015.pdf](http://www.vertikal.net/uploads/tx_filelinks/The-consequences-of-operating-Telehandlers-with-man-platforms-on-inclines-soft-ground-and-unsupported-surfaces-Issue-01-May-2015.pdf)

*Telehandler with fork mounted platform being lifted after overturn.*  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0L4ob4SIr94&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0L4ob4SIr94&feature=youtu.be)

*Just to make some of the issues clear, see the included articles from different sources.*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/12797/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/12797/)

*Video of fork lift fall*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21550/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21550/)

*Christmas pallet trick*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21941/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21941/)

*Fork and pallet goes wrong*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21205/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21205/)

*Risking it in Poland*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/20230/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/20230/)

*Sitting on the roof*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/15940/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/15940/)

*Cleared for landing?*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/7470/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/7470/)

*Death Wish 48*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/28087/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/28087/)

*Fatal telehandler fall in Florida*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21041/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21041/)

*Fatal Telehandler overturn*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/7565/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/7565/)

*Forklift platform costs £13k*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/6953/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/6953/)

*Death Wish 41*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/6256/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/6256/)

*€1.2 million penalty for using a forklift as a platform*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/785/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/785/)

*Farm worker dies after "crane" fall*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/22677/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/22677/)

*Telehandler and platform flips*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/20823/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/20823/)

*Telehandler and platform overturns*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/19698/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/19698/)

*A windy pallet*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/17628/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/17628/)

*Fatal fall from height*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/17353/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/17353/)

*A cherry picker or forks and platform?*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/10660/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/10660/)

*Fatal telehandler accident*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/10469/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/10469/)

*Three injured when telehandler tips*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/20469/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/20469/)

*Man thrown from telehandler basket*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/2606/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/2606/)

*Telehandler overturn kills man*

[www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/7735/](http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/7735/)

*Queensland warns on telehandler platforms*

[www.safework.sa.gov.au/news/forklift-work-platforms](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au/news/forklift-work-platforms)

*SAFEWORK SA Safety Alert Forklift work platforms. Nov 2017*