



SESAC SUSPENDED PERSONAL PLATFORM SAFETY PROCEDURE

Overview

It shall be recognized that the use of a crane suspended personnel platform is prohibited unless there is no safer, practical, conventional means of access to an elevated work area. Ladders, scaffolds, stairways, aerial lifts and personnel hoists must be considered before using a personnel platform. If these options are considered more hazardous or not possible because of design or worksite conditions, the hoisting of personnel from a crane is permitted using the following procedural guidelines.

Goals

Following this procedure, all employees of SESAC shall be able to

1. Understand the crane, rigging, and platform requirements needed to safely utilize a suspended personal platform.
2. Understand the requirements and directions to perform a proof test on the suspended platform before any hoisting is done.
3. Be aware of and participate in a mandatory pre-lift meeting with all employees involved in personnel lifting.
4. Be aware of and participate in a mandatory trial lift with all employees involved in personnel lifting.

Part I. Crane, Rigging, and Platform Requirements

1. Applicable crane setup and lifting operation requirements must be complied with when suspending personnel from a crane.
2. The total weight of the load to be lifted must not exceed 50 percent of the crane's load chart capacity.

Note: This must be considered when sizing the crane that is needed to safely access an elevated worksite.

3. The crane must have:
 - a. A positive locking safety latch on the crane hook.
 - b. A boom angle indicator readily visible to the operator.
 - c. A system that regulates the lowering rate of speed of the hoist mechanism.

- d. A positive reacting automatic, anti two blocking system.
4. The platform must:
- a. Be structurally sound.
 - b. Have inboard guard rails.
 - c. Have a locking gate that only swings inward.
 - d. Adequate headroom.
 - e. Overhead hazard protection.
 - f. Have smooth surfaces preventing employee injury from lacerations or punctures.
5. The rigging requirements are as follows:
- a. Rigging shall connect each bridle leg to a master link of shackle in such a manner that the load stays evenly divided.
 - b. All wire rope, shackles, rings, or other hardware must be capable of support without failure at five times the maximum intended load applied or transmitted to each component.
 - c. Rotation resistant rope requires ten times the maximum intended load. The designated rigging may not be used for any other purpose than hoisting personnel.

Note: Weight of the platform/basket and rated safe working load weights must be visibly marked on the platform. DO NOT exceed the designated capacity. In addition, only qualified welders and materials specified in the engineer's design shall be designated for building and repair of personnel platforms.

Part II. Initial Proof Test

After all repairs and modifications have been completed and the platform is initially brought to the site, the platform and rigging must be proof tested. Proof testing the personnel platform and rigging must be performed at 125 percent of the personnel platform's rating capacity by holding the suspended load in position for five minutes. Include the intended load, people, tools and equipment, weight of the basket or platform, rigging sling and block when calculating the weight. A competent person must inspect the crane, the suspension of the platform or basket, and rigging before each use and after each proof test. If any defects are found, they must be immediately corrected and another proof test is to be performed.

Part III. Pre-Lift Meeting

A pre-lift meeting must be held with all personnel involved in the lifting including the crane operator. The meeting must be held before each trial lift and before each lift being done in a new work area. Other issues to address at the pre-lift meeting include:

- a. Proper use of hand signals and continuous radio communication during hoisting.
- b. Proper tag line usage.
- c. Entering and exiting the platform including the correct procedure to secure the platform to the structure once in position.

Part IV. Trial Lift

A trial lift must be performed before any employees are allowed to be hoisted in the platform. Guidelines for the trial test are as follows:

- a. The lift must begin at the ground level or the area where workers will enter the platform.
- b. The platform must be loaded with the anticipated lift weight during occupancy.
- c. The platform must be hoisted to each location where employees will enter or exit, and/or perform work.
- d. The ***Suspended Personal Platform Safety Checklist*** must be filled out in its entirety with the appropriate signature before any hoisting is performed.

Note: If the crane is moved to a new location, or returned to a previous location, a new trial lift must be performed before hoisting any personnel

After the trial lift the personal platform must be hoisted a few inches off the ground and checked for proper balance and secured connections. A competent person must perform an inspection to determine whether the trial test produced any defects to the structure and its components. Any defects found during the post trial inspection must be corrected.

This concludes the procedure for Suspended Personal Platform Safety.

Remember to communicate with your co-workers including your operator and always put safety first.