

## Telehandlers with Work Platform Attachments

The following information has been developed by the TSHA Inc as guidance for members in each State and Territory on the use of work platform attachments fitted to Telescopic Handlers. This information is referenced in relevant Australian Standards.

- Only attachments approved for use on a specific model Telehandler by the manufacturer of the telehandler, or, a competent person may be used. **Platforms supplied by third party vendors independent of the Telehandler manufacturer do not satisfy this requirement.**
- Platform attachments must be fitted via a quick hitch and must not be attached to fork tynes.
- The Telehandler must be equipped with the following systems:
  - Means of emergency retrieval in the event of loss of power of the primary source.  
- E.g. A DC electric or hand pump – operable from the ground.
  - Emergency controls, accessible from the ground for lowering the platform in the event of control malfunction – complete with instructions for use.
  - A load chart depicting the rated capacity(ies) of the platform attachment and Telehandler combination, the allowable manual force (200N for platforms designed for one person or 400N for platforms capable of carrying more than one person), the operating envelope, the allowable wind speed, the permitted operating slope in both longitudinal and lateral directions, and instructions for use.
  - Facility to connect controls located at the platform to the Telehandler
  - A platform recognition system that automatically (i.e. without operator intervention) causes the telehandler to revert to “platform operating mode” and invokes all necessary interlocks to enable the Telehandler to be operated within the manufacturers specifications when a platform is fitted.  
**NOTE: Telehandlers that rely on the platform controls being connected to invoke platform operating mode do not fulfil this requirement.**

Examples of such interlocks are:

- That the stabilisers are engaged before the boom can be raised above a predetermined height (typically 5 degrees above horizontal).
- That the stabilisers cannot be operated when the boom is raised or extended.
- The Telehandler cannot travel, or can only travel at limited speed when the boom is raised – for those designed to operate on tyres alone.
- If the Telehandler Platform combination is designed to travel with the boom raised, an alarm system is provided that sounds when the unit is on a slope exceeding the manufacturers specifications.
- That the Telehandler cannot be operated unless the platform is secured in place by a connecting pin or pins.

NOTE: The majority of Telehandlers in use are not equipped with the above devices, and should not be used with work platforms. However, many manufacturers do have specific models available that are specifically designed for work platform attachments.

AS1418.19 requires Telehandlers fitted with work platforms to comply with the requirements of AS1418.10.

The following requirements (usually demonstrated by calculation and test) must be satisfied:

The Telehandler/platform combination must pass the following stability tests specified in AS1418.10:

- Static stability test (**This test is not equivalent to the tests specified for Telehandlers equipped with forks or other attachments**)
- If supported on pneumatic tyres, that the Telehandler platform combination remains stable under a condition where one tyre is deflated.
- If the Telehandler /platform combination is designed to travel with the boom raised - kerb and depression tests.

The Telehandler/platform combination must pass the following functional tests specified in AS1418.10:

- If required to operate on outriggers – that the Boom cannot be raised or extended unless the outriggers are set, and the outriggers cannot be operated unless the boom is lowered and retracted.
- That the machine cannot be driven when the boom is raised – unless designed to do so.
- If the machine can be driven with the boom raised, that the speed is automatically limited to 0.7m/second.
- If the machine can be driven with the boom raised, that an audible alarm sounds when the machine is driven onto a slope exceeding the manufacturers rating.
- The machine cannot be operated outside its working envelope.

**Most States of Australia require the Telehandler/Work Platform attachment combination to be design registered as a boom type elevating work platform.**

### **USE OF FORKLIFT WORK PLATFORMS COMPLYING WITH AS2359.1**

Platforms designed and manufactured to AS2359.1 Powered Industrial Trucks do not automatically satisfy the above requirements, and should not be used.

### **SAFE OPERATION OF TELEHANDLERS FITTED WITH WORK PLATFORMS**

To reduce risk during operation the following guidelines should be observed:

- The platform must be securely attached to the boom tip using locking pin(s) supplied for the purpose (Risk of falling if the platform becomes separated from the TSH)
- Controls located in the cab should not be used to elevate the work platform. (Risk of crushing due to reduced visibility from the cab and inefficient means of communication). Controls located at ground level are for emergency use only.
- The Telehandler must be setup in accordance with the specifications/limitations provided by the manufacturer for the telehandler/platform combination. (Risk of overturning/overload).
- Most Telehandlers fitted with work platforms must have outriggers engaged and must not be driven with the boom raised and extended. (Risk of overturning)
- Platforms must not be fitted with banners or other bluff objects that increase the sail area (Risk of overturning)
- Every occupant must wear a Fall Arrest Harness attached to anchorage points provided on the platform via an appropriate lanyard and energy absorber (Risk of falling).
- Clearances must be maintained from live electrical apparatus. (Risk of electric shock).
- Telehandlers must not be used in the dark – unless adequate lighting is provided
- Telehandlers must not be used in electrical storms.
- Maintain a safe clearance distance from powerlines at all times.
- Operators of Telehandlers must have a WP class High Risk Work Licence if the boom is capable of 11m or more extension.
- All operators should also be trained in the safe use of the Telehandler/work platform combination.
- A person trained in the use of emergency controls must be available at ground level to lower the machine in the event of an emergency.