

# ANSI A92 STANDARDS & WHAT THEY MEAN FOR TRANSLATIONS?





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Argos Multilingual is a global language service provider experienced in steering our clients' localization programs through changes to standards.

## UPDATED ANSI A92 STANDARDS FOR THE ACCESS INDUSTRY

The American Standards Association originally approved the A92 project in 1948, and was concerned with manually propelled mobile platforms and scaffolding. Since then, A92 has undergone periodic updates and its latest incarnations include the A92.20 Design Standard, the A92.22 Safe Use Standard and the A92.24 Training Standard each published in December 2018 with an effective date of December 2019. In the 70 years since the original A92 project, the standards have been adapted to cover various types of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs), including scissor and vertical lifts (in Group A) and boom lifts (in Group B). "Types" further classify each group: Type 1 lifts must travel in a stowed position and can only be moved manually, Type 2 lifts can be driven in an elevated position from the chassis while Type 3 can be operated and driven in an elevated position from the work platform.

The A92 standards are designed to work in conjunction with the Canadian Standards Association's CSA B354.8 Maintenance standard from 2017.



## WHY THE CHANGES?

Updated standards like the ANSI A92 and the CSA B354, reflect the increasing awareness of workplace risks and their goal is to minimize those risks through training, design and process.

The ANSI A92 standards' last major revision was in 2006. Since then, the world has changed. In 2006, Fidel Castro was still Cuban President, Rodney Atkins won the Billboard Song of the Year, Facebook had fewer than 100,000 users, and Wikileaks published its first document!

Of course, not only have awareness of workplace safety evolved and the world changed, but the products and technology available in the Access industries have changed too. Standards have had to chase innovation not foreseen at previous revisions in order that safety can keep pace with the marketplace and be relevant in a competitive industry.

Finally, this update is designed to align closely with internationally recognized standards such as ISO and AS/NZS. Aside from standards alignment being a common-sense approach, it also helps American manufacturers to export their high quality products if they can prove compliance across global markets.

## WHO IS AFFECTED?

The new standards affect all stakeholders in the Access industry; users, operators, supervisors, management, maintenance personnel (CSA B354), dealers, rental companies, training companies and manufacturers.



## WHAT HAS CHANGED?

According to The Access Industry's Insight blog run by the construction industry publisher KHL Group;

*"...while the industry may fear a sea-change, in fact, the new standards are more about codifying and clarifying existing requirements and recommendations, with a few new additions."*

One of the key changes readers will notice is a change in terminology- Aerial Work Platforms (AWPs) are now referred to as Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs).

Beyond this apparently cosmetic change, the standards have changed MEWP classifications into two groups, each with three sub-types as discussed earlier.

The ANSI A92 standards deal with 3 areas: Design (A92.20 ), Safe Use (A92.22) and Training (A92.24).

All new Design requirements affect machines manufactured after the effective date. While old machines do not need retrofitting, onboard manuals will need to be updated, every machine will need to have the date of the latest yearly inspection marked via decal or similar, and technicians will need training on marking procedures. Similarly, Safe Use and Training standards apply both to new and existing MEWPs.



## MACHINE DESIGN

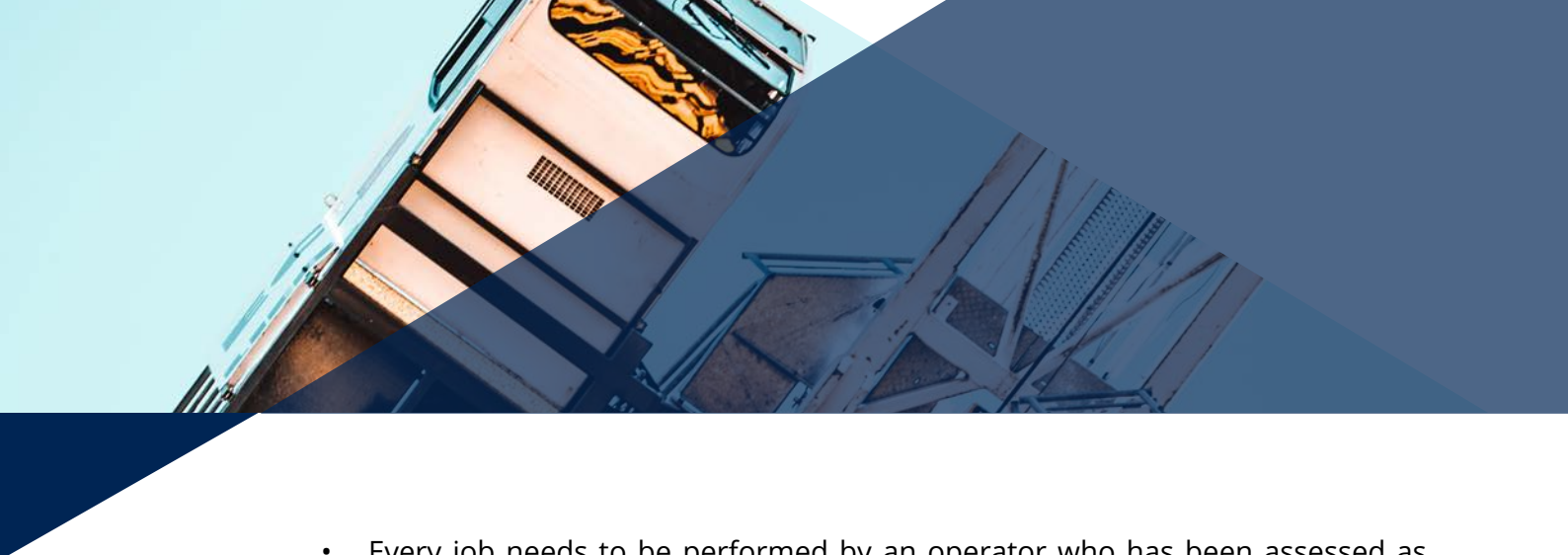
- Machines will now monitor load actively, meaning that when a machine is overloaded, alarms will sound and only emergency controls will be active meaning that operators will be unable to finish jobs where loading is above a machine's rated capacity.
- New wind force requirements will mean that certain MEWPs will only be rated for indoor use. MEWPs designed for outdoor use will have additional stability requirements (greater chassis weight) and reduced platform capacity for scissors and vertical platform lifts. Indoor only MEWPs must be clearly marked.
- New stability test requirements limit the use of air-filled tires on rough terrain.
- New tilt sensing requirements meaning that operators may need to consider machine positioning more frequently as certain operations are now impossible when chassis inclination limits are reached.
- Platform entry will no longer be via a chain entrance, while toe boards must be present across all areas of a platform.
- Indoor scissor lift railing heights have been increased, while some models will need folding rails enabling movement through standard doorways.

## SAFE USE

The standard specifies a daily safe use program, which includes a site risk assessment. The site risk assessment follows a logical progression:

1. Defining the scope of work including the tasks needed to complete the job, terrain and access considerations and scheduling particulars.
2. Selection of the most appropriate MEWP for the job.
3. Evaluation of any MEWP or job-specific risks.
4. Identification of appropriate safe work procedural controls that will mitigate risks identified in the earlier evaluation.
5. Ensuring that all job stakeholders (operators, platform occupants, technicians and supervisors) have the information needed to perform the job, including rescue plan in the event of either malfunction or falls from the platform.



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- Every job needs to be performed by an operator who has been assessed as capable of carrying out the tasks, while being visually supervised by a qualified person.
  - Record-keeping requirements for any modifications, including the circumstances in which modifications are allowed.
  - Specifications around how operators should avoid power lines or other electrical hazards.
  - Clarification about who is ultimately responsible for ensuring operators are trained and proficient (User/employer).

## TRAINING

- Dealers and rental companies must offer training or direct Users to appropriate training providers. Training is to be delivered by qualified persons in a language understood by the trainee. The concept of “familiarization” has been clarified to include MEWP features, devices and limitations, while qualified operators are now able to self-familiarize where appropriate.
- The Manual of Responsibilities has become a single document covering the responsibilities for all MEWP types.
- Users, dealers and owners must be able to prove that training has been received by anyone operating their MEWPs (via PAL Card or similar). Training completed in compliance with earlier standards need supplemental training.
- Operators need training specific to each MEWP group prior to operation. This means a vertical lift operator cannot operate a boom lift before first undergoing appropriate training.
- Platform occupants must understand how to work safely, including fall protection factors, understanding safe use of accessories, how their actions can affect stability and safety, hazard avoidance and emergency procedures.
- Operator supervisors must now also be trained in all appropriate rules and regulations, including standards, how to identify hazards and mitigate those risks, how operation manuals should be used and where they are stored and how to select MEWPs appropriate to each job.



- Maintenance personnel must be trained on proper MEWP inspection and maintenance per the CSA B354.8 standard.
- Online training in MEWP operation theory (via interactive eLearning modules) is now a recognized delivery method, and should be supplemented by a supervised practical test, normally at a training center.
- Operators and occupants require training in both ANSI A92 and CSA B354.8 standards, while supervisors should be trained in the ANSI standard, and Maintenance personnel in only the CSA standard.

## WHAT ABOUT LANGUAGE NEEDS?

The A92.24 training standard requires Users to select the training for their workers and ensure its trainees understand the training provided. For example, if the trainee does not understand the delivery language of the course, the user must provide either an alternative course or arrange to have an interpreter for the training. The responsibility for appropriate training delivery is borne by the user or employer, but it will be the trainee's language needs which will need to be catered for. This is likely to have important cost implications for users operating in areas where there are significant numbers of persons from minority groups and persons whose first language is not English, and is likely to be determined by an area's demographic make-up.

Fortunately, most major MEWP manufacturers already publish their User Documentation in multiple languages for their global markets, while training delivery companies often advertise non-English training. Nevertheless, Project Managers may need to budget financially and schedule appropriately so that training materials can be translated without impacting a job's timeframes.

We recommend reaching out to your language service provider for a proper assessment and scope for this task.





## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN?

The new A92 standards have been published in December 2018 and their effective date is December of 2019. While there is no need to panic, the remaining time until the effective date for the standards will rapidly disappear if stakeholders do not begin preparations now.

### HOW TO START?

All stakeholders – Manufacturers, Rental Houses, and Employers are urged to read the standards, perform GAP analyses and formulate a thorough plan for implementation in their business if they haven't done so already.

Depending on your business, it is likely that a steering group should be formed, to include a number of different stakeholders from your company, such as quality, legal, and regulatory, finance, operations, authoring and marketing personnel as well as management, and even key suppliers, such as Language Service Providers. Discussing the standards and devising implementation plans with a broad set of stakeholders is likely to bring new perspectives to the standards, and uncover opportunities and risks, which should be addressed prior to the effective date. ROI calculations, supply chain analyses, risk matrices, and budgeting will all need to take place if your business' transition to the new standards is going to be a success.

## ABOUT ARGOS MULTILINGUAL

Argos Multilingual is a global language solutions provider with experience servicing clients in the life sciences, industrial manufacturing and software/hardware industries. Our business is built on three core values: Quality at Source, Partnership Approach and Technology Agnostic Solutions, as we are committed to giving you choice while providing the best customized strategy to fit your business needs. We are ISO 9001, ISO 17100, EN ISO 13485 and ISO 27001 certified. With production centers in Krakow, Poland and Colorado, USA, we bring value to you through our dedicated customer service and subject matter expertise for your specialized industry.

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