

WHY DO I NEED A YELLOW CARD TO OPERATE AN ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM?



Every State and Territory in Australia has in place an Occupational Health and Safety Act (OH&S) or have adopted the new Work Health and Safety Act 2011, which aims to protect the health, safety and welfare of people at work. In these Acts, it is clearly stated that there is a duty of care to ensure workplace safety. In broad terms each State and Territory embraces the OHS and WHS Acts and specifically includes the following:

OHS Act 2000

- ***Employers must provide information, instruction, training and supervision necessary to ensure the health and safety of employees at work.***
- ***Manufacturers and suppliers of plant must ensure equipment is safe to use when properly used and must make available adequate information about the conditions for the safe use of the equipment manufactured or supplied.***
- ***Employees must co-operate with efforts to comply with OHS requirements.***

WHS Act 2011

Duties of a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU)

Primary duty of care:

A PCBU has the primary duty of care to ensure the health and safety of workers while they are at work in the business or undertaking. A PCBU is also responsible for ensuring work carried out does not carry risk to the health and safety of others.

This means the PCBU must:

- **Provide and maintain a safe work environment;**
- **Provide and maintain safe plant and structures;**
- **Provide and maintain safe systems of work;**
- **Ensure the safe use, handling and storage of plant, structures and substances;**
- **Provide adequate facilities (and ensure access is maintained);**
- **Provide instruction, training, information and supervision; and**
- **Monitor the health of workers and conditions at the workplace.**

What this means, in reality, is that there needs to be some form of proof that the operator has been trained in the safe use of an elevating work platform (EWP). Verbal instruction is not an effective method of training as it lacks written proof of training evidence. The EWP Operator Training Program or 'Yellow Card' is the result of the EWPA helping the industry to comply with the Acts.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The EWP Operator Licence is proof of completion in one or more modules in various types of EWPs. There are five different EWP training modules plus a transport module.

The modules include:

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| * Vertical Lift | VL |
| * Scissor Lift | SL |
| * Self Propelled Boom lift | BL |
| * Trailer lift | TL |
| * Truck Mounted Lift | TM |
| * Transporting (Load restraint) | T |



Whilst these are all classed as EWPs, each one is very different in use and safe operation. The transport module is aimed at transporters of EWPs, allocators and the like.

The EWPA 'Yellow Card' developed by the EWPA in consultation with members and industry. The intention of this program is to assist operators, employers, equipment owners and manufacturers to comply with the OHS / WHS & regulation.

- The 'Yellow Card' provides evidence that the operators of specific types of EWPs have been trained in the safe use of that type of work platform.
- The supplier, employer and user all have documentary evidence of the training received. This can be verified on the EWPA website.

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

The EWPA Yellow Card is the Association's method of meeting industry needs for EWP training. However, other methods can be used. Such methods include having in-house training schemes or user specific programs. The key elements that any programs need to include are a structured training format delivered by a suitably qualified trainer and the training content should meet or exceed the Australian Standard 2550.10 and manufacturers' safe operating procedures. The training outcomes are to be documented and a certificate of participation or proof of training issued.

WHAT IF I DO NOTHING?

The 'do nothing' approach is a time bomb. A blatant disregard of the law (the Act is law) will result in hefty fines and or jail. We all have a responsibility for workplace health and safety.

WHERE DOES THE HIGH RISK LICENCE: 11M BOOM LICENSE (TLILIC2005A) (WP) FIT IN?

This licence covers boom type EWPs 11 metres and over (eg truck mount, trailer mount and self-propelled). It is recommended that you contact your State or Territory Regulatory Authority as licensing procedures may differ slightly in each State or Territory.



DO I NEED BOTH A YELLOW CARD AND WP LICENCE?

If the operator is to only operate an EWP, self-propelled, truck or trailer mounted above 11 metre then the operator must comply with State/Territory or national regulation for high risk licensing. For operators of any boom type EWPs under 11 metres or Scissor lifts (of any height), Vertical mast/personal lifts must obtain training so that compliance with the WHS and OHS regulation is met. This can be confusing but an example may clarify the point.

Example: You have just gained your over 11m boom licence using a mobile elevating work platform with a boom length of 11.2m. Next day you are required to operate a scissor lift with a 12.1 metre platform height. Both EWPs and are over 11m but very different units. The High Risk Licence identifies that scissor type EWPs are not covered under the EWP High Risk License. However the operator of the scissor lift is required by Regulation to be trained in its safe operation. The Yellow Card is an industry driven training program that provides the holder with evidence of training in a particular type of EWP. It is based on EWP product type and **not** boom length.

Another example is the case of the operator having a High Risk License for a boom lift which was originally obtained on a trailer lift with a boom over 11m. The operator is now required to use a self-propelled boom lift with a boom of 12m. The operator has the required High Risk License but no proof of training on this very different type of EWP. Yellow Card training would be required for this different type of EWP before using it.

IN SUMMARY

The OHS and the WHS Acts are there to protect you in the workplace. The EWPA Operator Licence (Yellow Card) is an industry initiative helping to provide a safer working environment for all stake holders. It is a national program with a national database.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This one (1) day training program is designed for people who wish to or are required to develop the skills and knowledge needed to operate elevated work platforms. Participants may complete singular or multiple machine classes according to the type of work they will be undertaking. Machine classes are: Vertical Lift (VL), Scissor Lift (SL), Self-Propelled Boom (BL), Trailer lift (TL), Truck Mounted lift (TM) and Transporting (T).

EWPA ACCREDITED TRAINERS

To register for a course with an EWPA Accredited Trainer you can book online and search for training providers online. <http://yellowcard.ewpa.com.au/yellowcard/courses>
All EWPA Accredited Trainers (ATs) hold a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and will deliver the course in accordance with the EWPA Code of Practice. The AT will submit training records to the EWPA who in turn approve and produce the yellow card which is posted to the trained operator.

PREREQUISITES

This training program has no pre-requisite units.

AGE REQUIREMENT

Participants should be 18 years of age. Operating restrictions apply for those under 18 years of age.

DURATION

Approximately 6 hours (depending upon class size and prior knowledge and experience).

CLASS SIZE

Classes are limited to 10 people. For larger groups you will need to contact the Accredited Trainer who will arrange for more than one trainer to be made available.

FEES AND CHARGES

EWPA Accredited Trainers manage their own pricing, but as a guideline the EWPA recommends a course fee of \$400.



OUTCOME

Upon successful completion of the course your record of training is processed by the EWPA and you will receive an EWP Operator Licence with the proof of training and your photograph on the card.

An interim record of training from the EWPA will be emailed to you on the day of training and this can be used when operating machinery until you receive the yellow card. The EWP Operator Licence Yellow card will be processed and posted to your home address. Please let the EWPA know if you have not received your card within 60 days of training, if you let us know within that timeframe we can reissue it free of charge. After 60 days you will have to pay \$30 for the card to be reissued.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact us on:

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