

	<b>Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert</b>	Alert number: 32-15	Document Reference: AMG/F/HSQE/001
	<b>Mobile Elevated Working Platform – safety device override</b>	Issue Date: 08/05/15	Author: Steve Milroy

(To be posted on HSQE Notice Boards for a Period of 1 MONTH from date of issue)

### Overview

We have been contacted by Nationwide Platforms after a subcontractor's Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP) was inspected following its use on one of our sites. The inspector identified that two metal wedges had been placed to the rear of the cage to stop the overload sensors.

Overriding a safety feature such as the overload sensor could allow the machine to become top heavy and prevent any warning that it may become unbalanced or even tip over. In the event of this occurring, the operator is at severe risk of being ejected from the basket or suffering impact injuries. Safety features are there to protect us and disabling them is extremely dangerous. Machines with compromised safety mechanisms must not be used.



Wedges inserted to override the overload sensor

### Discussion Points

- Staff to be aware of the method used to override the overload sensor
- More vigilance required during site inspections and MEWP acceptance checks
- A full investigation has been launched with the subcontractor
- CCTV footage clearly identified the operator over loading the basket • CCTV footage clearly identified the operator inserting the wedges
- The subcontractor has disciplined the operator concerned, implemented refresher training and a monitoring process
- The incident is to be discussed at all senior meetings and information is to be circulated across the business.
- Regular daily checks on all MEWPS