



## **ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

### **100,000<sup>th</sup> Yellow Card a national safety milestone**

The Elevating Work Platform Association of Australia (EWPA) has registered its 100,000<sup>th</sup> Trained Operator under its nationally recognised industry, training program, the EWPA Yellow Card training scheme.

Ian McLeod, Warehouse Production Manager at Victorian based exhibition display company, John Gibson Displays, was the 100,000<sup>th</sup> Trained Operator under the program. He was trained by Andrew Thomson, one of the EWPA's regular trainers from Coates Hire and presented with a commemorative plaque at an industry luncheon on December 6, 2007, celebrating the key achievement.

The major industry, training milestone highlights the EWPA's dedicated commitment to safety for both workers and operators of EWPs.

As the peak representative body of the access industry in Australia, the EWPA is constantly striving to improve safety and service standards throughout Australia.

One of the key objectives of the EWPA has been to raise awareness of, not only the need for safe access, but also operator safety when using EWPs.

The EWPA Yellow Card is a nationally accredited (No: VQA 21629) scheme run in cooperation with Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT) and recognised by all major manufacturers, suppliers and users of EWPs.

The Yellow Card initiative meets the two key objectives of Australian OH&S Acts:

- To confirm the operators of specific types of EWPs have been trained in the safe use of the work platform; and
- The supplier, employer and operator all have documentary evidence the required "duty of care" has been met or exceeded.

The Operator Card is a registered ticket issued to operators who have been successfully trained by EWPA Nationally Accredited Workplace Trainers in the safe use and operation of various types of EWPs. There are up to five different categories of EWPs, with those applicable listed on the card before issue.

The categories are:

- Trailer mounted Boomlift (TL)
- Self Propelled Boomlift (BL)

- Vertical Lift (VL)
- Scissor Lift (SL)
- Truck Mounted Boom (TM)

While these are all classed as EWPs, each one is very different in use and safe operation.

The Yellow Card involves a structured training program covering safety, hazard evaluation, pre-operational checks, operation of the various types of EWP's and more. According to Mr McLeod, the EWP training he received through the program was excellent.

“Our EWP trainer gave us a total understanding of how the machine works and operates. It was a very good education and a natural progression from our forklift training,” Mr McLeod said

“Plus it ensures we meet our OHS requirements,” he said.

“John Gibson Displays designs and installs custom exhibition display stands and as a consequence, a lot of our work takes place at various heights. Working on ladders at these heights is not safe, so we use scissor lifts to achieve what we need to. The number one priority for us is safety,” Mr McLeod said.

### **Meeting National Standards of Training**

Originally established in the late 1980s to meet the then rapid rise in the use of EWPs, particularly self-propelled scissorlifts and boomlifts, the EWPA “Yellow Card” Operator Training scheme consists of instruction and training sessions followed by an assessment carried out by EWPA approved trainers. The operator is issued with an operator or yellow card on completion as proof of training on the various types of EWPs.

By the mid 1990s the program was reviewed and improved by including serial numbers on the yellow cards, which were recorded by the EWPA, plus the introduction of a register of EWPA approved trainers.

From the mid 1990s onwards, governmental pressure for national training conformity then led to the introduction of a national standard of competency for numerous items of plant, including scaffolding, forklifts, cranes and hoists plus the new category: WP: Boomlift 11m and over.

The WP License was an additional WorkCover requirement if the operator wished to use a boomlift with a boom 11m or longer.

This increasing pressure on the importance of training and the responsibilities of suppliers and employers resulted in the members of the EWPA deciding to upgrade the training program to meet or exceed the national standards for training in the late 1990s.

This was a major step for the EWPA as it required all approved trainers to meet nationally recognised levels of training. This meant the majority of the trainers had to proceed with an upgrade course so they achieved a Workplace Trainer category, which included the relevant National Training Modules.

On top of this, the EWPA Trainer must also have the WP License plus have completed the Product Module for EWPs, which was written by the EWPA.

This upgrade was implemented with the help of Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT), which is a RTO (Recognised Training Organisation) and ensured the program met the national requirements. At the same time the Yellow Card Training Program was also upgraded to ensure key competencies were covered by questions and practical assessment. The card also changed to a plastic credit card format, linked to a national database.

This last stage was completed with the new program starting in July 2001 and has gained rapid acceptance by both the Operators and the Trainers.

Implemented with the help of Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT) a Recognised Training Organisation, all accredited EWPA trainers now meet all relevant national Training Modules for EWPs (to a nationally accredited trainer level VQA 21629) and hold the WP License.

“More than 400 EWPA Accredited Trainers are now registered with the Association to carry out the new program, which became effective on December 1, 2001. Since the introduction of the plastic yellow card linked to a national database, we’ve had 100,000 operators complete the EWPA training program throughout Australia,” Mr Newby (Executive Director of the EWPA) said.

“Employers can now be confident that by using an EWPA Accredited Trainer to train their employee/operator they can be assured of ‘duty of care’ training carried out by a suitably qualified person.”

For further information on the EWPA Operator Training Program, contact the EWPA on ph: 1800 01 5166 or email: [info@ewpa.com.au](mailto:info@ewpa.com.au)

### **About the EWPA**

The Elevating Work Platform Association of Australia (EWPA) is the industry body representing the Elevating Work Platform (EWP) industry and includes manufacturers, suppliers, rental companies, owner/users and service providers.

Formed in 1987, the association today has more than 400 member companies and is run through a National Executive, supported by State Committees, which meet regularly to ensure effective communication on key issues affecting the industry.

The EWPA expects all members to work within the association’s Code of Ethics, which includes;

- Honesty and reliability in all transactions;
- Maintaining high standards of equipment, safety and reliability as per Australian Standards and the OH&S Act;
- Encouraging information exchange on practical and technical matters; and
- Fostering co-operation between manufacturers, renters, suppliers, users and regulatory authorities in the EWP industry.

Ends.

**Photo Caption:** EWPA Victoria Branch President Tim Nuttall with the 100,000<sup>th</sup> trained Yellow Card operator, Ian McLeod and EWPA National President, Bernie Kiekebosch.

**Photo caption:** EWPs being demonstrated at the Equipment in Action field day component of the annual National Convention of the EWPA sister association, The Hire and Rental Industry Association (HRIA).

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Authorised and released by the Elevating Work Platform Association of Australia.

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