

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 009 – BOOM LIFT

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Minimum requirements for safe operation of boom-type elevating work platforms used by Illusions Australia.

Applies to self-propelled or trailer-mounted boom lifts. Site-specific SWMS, permits and manufacturer requirements may also apply.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Only trained, competent and authorised persons may operate a boom lift.

Where the boom length is 11 metres or more, the operator must hold the required High Risk Work licence for boom-type EWP operation.

Operators must be familiar with emergency lowering, ground controls, load limits and the specific machine.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Safety footwear.
- High-visibility clothing where exposed to mobile plant/traffic.
- Hard hat where overhead hazards exist.
- Harness and restraint/fall-arrest equipment as required by the machine, risk assessment and site rules.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- Pre-start inspection is complete and defects are addressed.
- Ground conditions are firm, level and suitable.
- Overhead powerlines, structures and obstructions are identified.
- Exclusion zone and traffic controls are established.
- Emergency lowering and ground controls are understood and accessible.
- Platform gate, rails and anchor points are serviceable.
- Tyres, outriggers, alarms and interlocks are serviceable.
- Rated capacity will not be exceeded.
- Weather and wind are within manufacturer limits.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Complete the documented pre-start check.
2. Establish exclusion controls and assess overhead/ground hazards.
3. Enter using designated access and close the gate.
4. Connect harness equipment where required to the designated anchor point.

5. Start and test controls at low level.
6. Raise/position the boom smoothly while maintaining clearance from structures and powerlines.
7. Keep both feet on the platform floor and remain within guardrails.
8. Travel only in accordance with manufacturer instructions and site conditions.
9. Maintain communication with ground personnel where required.
10. Lower and park in the designated safe position after use.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Exceed rated platform capacity.
- Climb, sit or stand on guardrails or use ladders/boxes in the platform.
- Use the boom as a crane unless specifically designed and authorised.
- Operate near powerlines without required clearances and controls.
- Exit an elevated platform unless specifically planned, assessed and authorised.
- Operate in excessive wind or unsuitable ground conditions.
- Bypass interlocks or safety devices.
- Move the machine where visibility or exclusion controls are inadequate.

7. FALL PROTECTION

Boom movement can create ejection and fall hazards.

- Use the designated anchor point only.
- Keep lanyards and equipment clear of controls.
- Do not attach to structures outside the platform.

8. CRUSHING AND ENTRAPMENT

Operators can be trapped between the platform and overhead/adjacent structures.

- Plan the approach and escape space.
- Use slow controlled movements near structures.
- Use a spotter where visibility or clearance is restricted.

9. POWERLINES AND ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

Contact or arcing from overhead electrical conductors can be fatal.

- Identify electrical hazards before elevation.
- Maintain required exclusion distances.
- Treat all conductors as live unless confirmed otherwise by the responsible authority.

10. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL OPERATION

Stop for alarm, control fault, hydraulic leak, damaged guardrail, instability, unexpected movement or weather deterioration.

Use emergency lowering where necessary and safe. Isolate/tag defective plant.

11. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Fully lower/stow the boom.
- Park on stable ground in the designated area.
- Apply brake and isolate/remove key as required.
- Recharge/refuel in the designated manner.
- Report defects and complete required records.

12. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate energy sources where safe to do so.
3. Provide or obtain first aid as required.
4. Notify the Foreman, Leading Hand or other authorised Illusions Australia representative.
5. Call emergency services where required.
6. Do not recommence until the incident, defect or unsafe condition has been addressed.

13. STOP WORK REQUIREMENT

Work must stop where:

- Required licence/competency is absent.
- Ground or weather conditions are unsuitable.
- Powerline clearances cannot be maintained.
- Exclusion controls cannot be established.
- Any safety device, control or emergency-lowering system is defective.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document	SWP 009 – Boom Lift
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Prepared By	Aidan McDonnell
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