

Ethical Sourcing

Cherry Picker Hazards

Mobile elevating work platforms such as cherry pickers are increasingly used in the agricultural industry for accessing heights. Tasks at height include picking, pruning, bud removal, and placement and removal of bird netting. In recent years persons operating cherry pickers in agriculture have sustained serious injuries due to critical component failure of the equipment. Suppliers must ensure cherry pickers are sufficiently inspected and maintained to ensure the machinery is safe and without risks to health, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Supplier Guidelines

1 Managing Risk

Employers are responsible for managing and reducing work health and safety risks on their sites. Managing work health and safety risks involves four steps:

1. **Identifying hazards:** finding out what could cause harm.
2. **Assessing risks:** understanding the nature of the harm that could be caused by the hazard, how serious the harm could be and the likelihood of it happening.
3. **Controlling risks:** eliminating or implementing the most effective control measure that is reasonably practicable.
4. **Reviewing control measures:** ensuring control measures are working as planned.

Deciding what is 'reasonably practicable' to protect people from harm requires taking into account all relevant matters including:

- The likelihood of the hazard or the risk occurring
- The degree of harm that might result from the hazard or the risk
- Knowledge about the hazard or risk
- Ways of eliminating or minimising the risk, and
- The availability and suitability of ways to eliminate or minimise the risk

2 Record Keeping

It is good practice to keep records of risk management activities while they remain relevant. Keeping records of the risk management process demonstrates compliance, proactive safety management and may help when undertaking subsequent risk assessments. See overleaf for an example Cherry Picker Hazard Checklist.

3 Queries and Feedback

For any queries or to provide feedback regarding Coles' worker health and safety expectations, please contact the Coles Ethical Sourcing Team at EthicalSourcing@coles.com.au.

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4 Further Information

Refer to the table below of useful links to additional information. This is not legal advice or an exhaustive list of legal obligations. Suppliers should use the following resources or seek independent advice as appropriate.

Organisation	Website Link
Safe Work Australia	https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/topic/elevating-work-platforms
SafeWork NSW	https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/safety-alerts/safety-alerts/mobile-elevating-work-platforms-used-in-orchards
Workplace Health and Safety Queensland	https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/hazards/workplace-hazards/agriculture/elevating-work-platforms
WorkSafe Victoria	https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/maintenance-and-inspection-mobile-elevating-work-platforms-mewps-agriculture-industry-information
	https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/elevating-work-platforms-industry-standard
SafeWork SA	https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/plant-tools-and-vehicles/elevating-work-platforms

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Example Cherry Picker Hazard Checklist

Owner / Manager						
Property address						
Completed by:						
Date completed						
Hazard	Risk Level	Action Planned	Cost	Person Responsible	Target Date	Completed Date
All operators are properly trained to use cherry pickers						
All cherry pickers are serviced and maintained according to manufacturer's safety directions						
A preoperational check of controls and safety systems (brakes, hydraulics and pins) is conducted before each day's use						
All cherry pickers are inspected and maintained as described in Annex 1 of the Australian/NZ Standard 2550.10 <i>Cranes, hoists and winches Part 10: Mobile elevating work platforms</i>						
All picking bags are in good repair						
The size of picking bags is appropriate for the Safe Weight Limit (SWL) and does not overload the cherry picker						

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Hazard	Risk Level	Action Planned	Cost	Person Responsible	Target Date	Completed Date
Safety harness and harness attachments (where an assessment has been made for their use) are used and in good condition						
Hand controls are guarded to prevent tree branches and limbs activating controls						
Foot controls are covered to prevent fruit jamming under the controls						
Cherry picker baskets are kept clean to prevent fruit and debris jamming foot controls						
Additional Hazards (populate as required)						
Next Review Date:		Address:		Person Responsible		