

20 SPIDER LIFT TERMS EXPLAINED

Plain English. No filler. Save this and pass it to whoever books your access equipment.

SPIDER LIFT



A tracked MEWP that travels on rubber tracks and deploys outriggers before lifting. Built for tight or restricted access.

MEWP



Mobile Elevating Work Platform. The industry term covering cherry pickers, scissor lifts, spider lifts and more.

WORKING HEIGHT



The maximum height a person can work at. Usually platform height plus an assumed 2m reach.

PLATFORM HEIGHT



The height of the basket floor at full extension. This is lower than working height.

OUTREACH



The horizontal distance the basket reaches from the machine centre. Important for working over obstacles.

NEGATIVE REACH



How far the boom reaches below ground level. Useful for bridges, retaining walls and underside inspection.

OUTRIGGERS



Stabilising legs that deploy before lifting. They must be correctly positioned on suitable pads.

SPREADER PADS



Plates placed under outrigger feet to spread load and reduce pressure on the ground.

GROUND PRESSURE



The force the machine applies through tracks or outriggers. Critical on weak, soft or suspended surfaces.

TRACK WIDTH



The overall width of the tracks in transport position. Often the deciding figure for gates and doorways.

ASYMMETRIC OUTRIGGERS



Outriggers that deploy to different lengths on each side, allowing setup in narrow or awkward positions.

IPAF



The training body behind the PAL Card, widely recognised for powered access operator certification.

LOLER



Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. Requires thorough examination of lifting equipment.

SWL



Safe Working Load. The maximum combined weight of people, tools and materials allowed in the basket.

FAMILIARISATION



Machine-specific instruction given before first use of a make or model, even when the operator is trained.

TELEMATICS



Systems that track location, usage, faults, battery health and other machine data remotely.

JIB



A smaller articulating boom section at the basket end that adds reach and positioning flexibility.

BASKET ROTATION



How far the basket turns on its own axis, helping the operator face the work without moving the machine.

SELF-DRIVE HIRE



Machine hired without an operator. The customer provides a trained operative and accepts the handover.

OPERATED HIRE



Machine supplied with a qualified operator. Useful for complex work or where no trained operator is on site.