



2nd Australia and New Zealand Conference on Advanced Research (ANZCAR- 2018),
Melbourne, Australia
ISBN :978-0-6481172-2-3
Asia Pacific Institute of Advanced Research (APIAR)
www.apiar.org.au

LEARNING TO TRANSITION ACROSS ELEVATED WORK PLATFORMS: VIRTUAL CONTROL TRAINING VIA MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract

An estimated 120 variations of elevated-work platform (EWP) control panels are currently in use across Australian construction worksites. Transitioning across dissimilar control panels is highly problematic. As a way of mitigating the issues caused by transitioning between control panels, many regulatory and coronial recommendations suggest that operators should pay particular attention to reading and comprehending EWP model-specific manuals. Yet, many EWP operators may have either a low level of literacy or be unable to take the required time off a busy job site to do this effectively. This paper reviews current issues faced internationally with regard to operator transference between EWP control panels and discusses these in relation to current theories from aviation human factors on the risk arising from control variations. In particular, categorisations of controls that are used to differentiate between aircraft flight deck variations are applied to contribute to current knowledge on control variation issues that continuing education in EWP competency need to consider. The development of a control simulator which can be deployed on worksites via mobile technology is discussed in terms of new approaches to the ongoing training and assessment.

Keywords: Simulation, Continuing Education, Elevated Work Platform, Controls, Transitioning.
