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DEFINITIONS AND USE OF THE TERMS “QUALIFIED” AND “CERTIFIED”

In the aerial work platform industry the terms “qualified” and “certified” are often used interchangeably in connection with training for employees who operate or maintain mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPS). In this memo we provide information about the standards and regulations that govern the use of these terms and discuss common questions to help clarify their appropriate application.

Q: Are there requirements for personnel (mechanics, operators, trainers, etc.) to be certified in order to work on / operate / train others regarding MEWPS?

Although “training” for the above listed personnel is required in most countries, there are no regulations or standards requiring “certification.” This includes training for operators, trainers, and mechanics in all countries currently enforcing MEWP standards. The term “certification” implies that there is some mechanism of enforcement, not unlike a driver’s license. However, the regulatory entities do not require certification (licensing) for trained personnel, nor do

they require any proof of training to be carried by the employee. Regardless of the fact that the term “certification” does not appear in the standards in conjunction with MEWP training, it is still used in the industry. There is no restriction on using the term in this manner, but it is not consistent with the standards and regulations and may result in confusion for those trying to meet their obligations for training.

Q: What does ANSI, CSA and OSHA have to say about training?

In the USA, OSHA produces regulations (law) and is responsible for workplace safety enforcement. However, because



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OSHA regulations don't use the term "certification" as it relates to training on MEWPS, they do not recognize or require any documentation showing that a trainee is certified to train others, work on or operate MEWPS. Instead, ANSI, CSA and OSHA define and use the term "qualified" to describe requirements for personnel working with or on MEWPS. In general, this definition states that mechanics, trainers, operators and all other "employees" conducting training, working on or operating MEWPS are determined to be "qualified" (competent) by the employer based on a demonstration of proficiency (knowledge) regarding the MEWP. The MEWP manufacturer does not have a part in determining that an employee is qualified but does have a responsibility to provide training materials that will enable the employer to administer the appropriate level of training to ensure that the employee is qualified.

This same basic concept is in place in all other regulated countries. However, throughout the world, local, job site, employer, or other authorities may dictate that employees working

on or with MEWPS meet certain minimum requirements and be certified (licensed) according to certain unregulated requirements.

Q: Does a MEWP have to be certified by the manufacturer or other entity?

Certified product testing is not required in the USA, but is required in CE countries, Canada, and Australia. Nevertheless, Genie Industries retains third party engineering experts for compliance evaluation and testing on all models of our equipment for all MEWP standards that exist worldwide. In addition, Genie utilizes written quality processes during the manufacture of all our products and maintains records showing compliance to both internal and external standards. As a result, all Genie MEWPS are "certified" on two levels: first, in accordance with our own internal standards and second, in compliance with all national and international regulations and requirements.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the Product Management Group at 800-536-1800.

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