

# Mast Climbers: Check Load, Travel and Readiness

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## Why this matters

Moving a platform changes its clearance from the building and exposes a different part of the travel path. Masonry stock can also overload a section even when the total load looks reasonable.

Objective: Verify the handed-over mast climber's configuration, loading, protected travel and fault-response arrangements before use.

## Key hazards or failure points

Unverified installation; overloaded extensions; altered mast ties; open protection; crushing during travel; falling materials; power loss or unsafe fault recovery.

## Practical controls

- Use only the accepted installation with current operating instructions and its configuration-specific load chart. Keep erection, dismantling and tie changes with the designated specialists.
- Plan the location of blocks, mortar, tools and people within permitted loading zones. Maintain the specified access, gates, guardrails and protection during loading transitions.
- Only assigned trained operators move the platform. Clear the travel path and building pinch points, protect people below, and confirm the prescribed response for a fault, weather change or stranded worker.

## Verify It in the Field

Match equipment identity and installed arrangement to the handover and competent-person inspection. Confirm inspection before this shift and after events affecting integrity; report changed ties or supports from a safe location.

Compare today's stock and worker positions with the actual load chart, including extensions. Have the operator resolve distribution and quantity before adding material or moving; never test capacity by loading more.

Before travel, check people, materials, access protection and the complete intended route. Confirm required control checks have been completed safely under the instructions. Ask who manages emergency descent and how help is called; record findings, checker and time.

## Stop and reassess

Hold use for uncertain loading, missing inspection, damaged or altered ties, incomplete protection, travel obstruction, abnormal motion or conditions outside the operating limits. Follow the trained fault procedure; do not bypass an interlock, climb out or improvise a rescue. Correct and obtain the required reinspection and release.

## Ask the crew

1. Where may today's stock and people be placed?
2. What could trap someone during this movement?
3. Who manages a power loss or medical emergency at height?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.451, .454; mast-climber eTool; actual installation/manual/chart.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: [toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/mast-climbing-work-platform-safety](https://toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/mast-climbing-work-platform-safety)