OpsPilot

Equipment Pre-Use Checklist — User Manual

Pre-Shift Checks for Mobile Plant & Lifting · AI Engineering Co-Pilot

What this guide covers — what a pre-use checklist is for, how the OpsPilot module designs one, what to have ready, and the checklist you receive.

1. What is a pre-use checklist?

A pre-use (or pre-start) checklist is the operator's inspection of a piece of mobile or lifting equipment — a crane, MEWP, forklift or vehicle — before they use it, to catch a defect before it causes an incident. A cracked weld, a failing brake or a sticking control found in the yard is a maintenance job; found mid-lift it's a fatality. The discipline is making each check meaningful rather than a checkbox swept through in thirty seconds.

OpsPilot designs to the relevant equipment standards — *AS 2550 / AS 1418 (cranes), AS 2359 (forklifts), AS 4024 (machinery safety), AS/NZS 1418.10 and ISO 18893 (MEWPs), ANSI B30*. It is distinct from Operator Rounds, which covers process plant — this module covers operator-driven equipment.

2. What the OpsPilot module does

Role	Responsibility
🎯 **AI Coach — Senior HSE Manager (OpsPilot)**	Designs a defensible, equipment-specific pre-use checklist to the applicable standards — the right checks for the equipment type, with clear pass/fail criteria and a defect-found action path.
👷 **HSE / Plant Engineering / Operations (you)**	Provide the equipment inventory, the operating environment, the current checklist practice and the operator-competency framework — and you bear accountability for implementation.

3. How it works

- Identify the equipment types in scope (crane, MEWP, forklift, mobile plant, vehicle) and the applicable standards.
- Build the type-specific check items — structure, controls, brakes, hydraulics, safety devices, tyres/tracks, attachments.

- Give each item a clear pass/fail criterion, not a vague “looks OK.”
- Define the defect-found action — what the operator does when a check fails (tag out, report, don't operate).
- Set the record and sign-off so the check is auditable.

4. What you will be asked — have this ready

- The equipment to be covered and its operating environment.
- Your current checklist practice (if any) and the operator-competency framework.
- The site rules for tagging out and reporting defects.

5. What you receive — the output

A complete Equipment Pre-Use Checklist design (Word): the type-specific check items with pass/fail criteria, the defect-found action path, and the record and sign-off — built to the applicable standards for the equipment type.

6. Worked example (illustrative)

A pre-start checklist for a MEWP (elevating work platform). The weak version is a list of items with a single “OK” column ticked from the ground. The designed version makes each check do work: the emergency-lowering function is operated and confirmed (not just looked at), the guardrails and harness anchor are physically checked, the controls are function-tested through their range, and the tyres and outriggers are inspected against stated criteria. Each item has pass/fail, and a failed item triggers the action path — tag the machine out of service, report it, do not operate. That turns a thirty-second tick into the check that finds the defect before someone is fifteen metres up on it.

7. Getting the best result

- **Match the checklist to the equipment.** A crane, a forklift and a MEWP fail in different ways — generic lists miss the ones that matter.
- **Function-test, don't just look.** Operating the safety device proves it works; looking at it doesn't.
- **Give every item pass/fail.** “Looks OK” is how defects get ticked through.
- **Define the defect action.** A failed check must lead to tag-out and report, not a shrug.