ABSTRACT
As MEWP’s lift humans up to as much as 110 metres the need for monitoring the structural integrity of this type of equipment to ensure safe operation is critical. Within the regulations of South Africa which includes the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the South African National Standards there is no requirement that any form of NDT is to be carried out in order to ensure the structural integrity of these types of equipment.
This paper looks at the implementation of a complete NDT program using acoustic emission, ultrasonic, magnetic particle, dye penetrant and visual inspection methods. It will highlight specific case studies where the current inspection requirements failed to detect major defects. A complete NDT inspection program will help to ensure that the owners of these types of equipment have in fact taken preventative action to ensure operator safety regardless of the short comings of regulatory requirements.