



We maintained that even if undersized mats - wood or synthetic - were used, it is entirely possible that in many, if not most cases, the tip over would have been avoided. Based

If you are a rental company - Do you offer outrigger mats on all self-drive crane and aerial rentals?

The surprise here was in the other direction:-

- 117 companies have voted so far
- 45 or 38.5 percent said No
- 72 or 61 percent said Yes.

The argument goes that the supply of mats is related to the ground conditions which vary and so must be the responsibility of the person renting the machine, rather than the hire company. Companies were concerned that if they provided a half metre diameter mat and the machine was being used on very soft ground and the machine then tipped over, the rental company might be cited as liable.

All companies said they provide mats with driver operated lifts or cranes for that matter. They also said that if a self drive machine is fitted with mats, as an increasing number are,



then those units go out with them too.

Both sides of the argument on this issue agreed one thing, that the industry - through IPAF and the CPA - should issue a policy statement on the issue in order to ensure consistency and to prevent cowboys undercutting those who take safety seriously.

Our view is that mats should be offered, and probably charged for, with larger ones available for extra soft ground at a further cost. We also believe that there is a case for manufacturers being required to fit a set of half metre pads in a rack on the machine. This then puts the onus firmly on the user, the next job will of course be to encourage him to use them, but that's another story.

Outrigger mats the big debate

In January we wrote an editorial concerning the use of outrigger mats on cranes and aerial lifts. The comment came after what seemed to be a spate of high profile tip overs in 2007, mostly, it has to be said, with mobile cranes and most of them in North America. In every case, as far as we could see the crane or lift was being used without any spreader mats under the machine's often small fitted pad.

on this we asked the question:-

Should the use of outrigger mats be made mandatory on cranes & lifts?

We were quite surprised by the response -

- 966 people voted
- 787 or 81.5 percent, said Yes they should be mandatory while
- 179 or 18.5 percent, said No, Possibly due to the fact that compulsion goes against the grain with some. No matter it was a surprisingly strong endorsement of the proposition.

We then had a call from a reader claiming that he had tried to rent a self propelled boom lift with outriggers and that the company had been unable to supply mats or tell him where to find a set. So we asked a new question:



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