

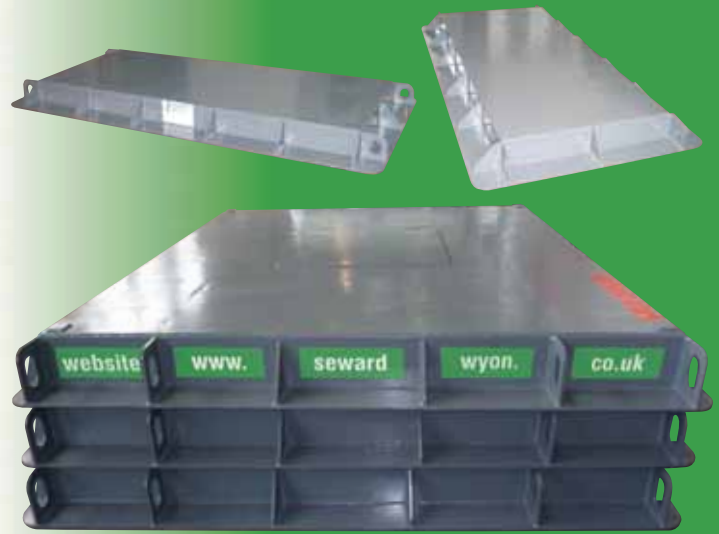
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Operators' Forum General Meeting

Held at Haydock Park on the 25th June as part of Vertikal Days, the first General Meeting of 2009 for ALLMI's fleet owner members, began with an update from Forum chairman, Steve Frazer-Brown, who reported on ALLMI's activities in relation to the revision of BS7121 Part 4 and the development of a Best Practice Guide for loader crane operations.

Next up was ALLMI's technical manager, Alan Johnson, who informed members of the various projects he's working on in 2009. These include: producing guidance on the third amendment to BS EN12999, the European Standard for Loader Cranes; obtaining Driver CPC accreditation for the ALLMI training scheme, completion of ALLMI's work on Engine Management

Systems, and the development of guidance on the subject of Whole Vehicle Type Approval. Serge Cren of business communication specialists, Difference Corporation, then took the floor, followed by Mike Hodson, formerly of the British Standards Institution, who covered Standards development in the crane industry.

The meeting finished with a discussion on the issue of working at height. Frazer-Brown said: "the meeting saw a lot of lively debate on a number of issues and the quality of the presentations was excellent. Combined with the show's impressive array of exhibitor stands and demonstrations, it made for a very interesting and informative day."

Membership Growth

ALLMI's membership continues to grow at an impressive rate, in spite of the difficult economic climate, with the Association currently averaging a new member every week. ALLMI chairman, Mark Rigby, notes:

"We feel that the work we've put in over the last few years is really coming to fruition now. The increase in membership services, together with ALLMI's strength as a voice in the industry, is making membership increasingly attractive for lorry loader companies. Members are benefiting from ALLMI's ability to set standards and produce guidance for the industry, but there's also a commercial advantage to be gained, not only from the ALLMI's buyers' co-operative, but also from

the credibility attributed to companies that are part of the Association and that bear its logo. We see this trend in membership growth continuing, given the plans we have for development over the next few years."



Guidance on Noise Testing

As part of the new requirements due to be introduced by the A3 amendment of EN12999, loader crane installers will soon have to declare, at the testing stage, the noise levels that are produced by the crane during operation.

ALLMI is currently working with an expert noise consultant in order to

produce guidance on the process and equipment requirements for carrying out these tests. Alan Johnson, ALLMI's technical manager, says: "the methods by which the tests have to be conducted are very specific and are outlined in several ISO Standards. We feel that by working in conjunction with a noise testing



ALLMI's stand at Vertikal Days

Vertikal Days Review

For the third successive year, ALLMI's presence at the Vertikal Days show proved to be a big success.

Exhibiting alongside a host of loader crane manufacturers, the stand was a hive of activity, with an impressive number of visitors over the course of the two days. Executive director, Tom Wakefield, said: "We've always found Vertikal Days to be a great way to promote the Association and this year's show was no exception.

We experienced a very high level of activity on the stand and because of the specialist nature of the show, every visitor we spoke to had a genuine interest in lifting operations. We already feel that the show was a success for us, but expect to see further benefits over the coming months as we build on the relationships we established. There's no doubt the show will continue to grow and we very much intend to be a part of that."

Best Practice Guide Development

Following completion of the first draft of the new BS7121 Part 4, ALLMI is now working in conjunction with various other organisations in order to produce a Best Practice Guide for loader crane operations.

Partners in the project include the CPA, MPBA, SAFed, UKCG and HSE, the aim of the document is to expand upon and clarify the requirements embodied in the recently revised Part 4. ALLMI executive director, Tom Wakefield, says:

"it was always the intention to produce a publication like this to supplement the work we did on Part 4. The document will be jointly published by those involved in its development and it will be freely available to download from each of the organisations' websites. The intention is to produce a guide which sets out, in layman's terms, how to comply with Part 4 and how to perform all types of lorry loader operation safely and efficiently."

