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On the cover:

Sarens UK used its 600 tonne truck lattice boom Demag TC2800 and Liebherr LTM 1400 as the tailing crane to install a new air separation facility at BOC Scunthorpe.



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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Cranes & Access is published eight times a year and is available on payment of an annual subscription of £40.00. If you wish to subscribe, please send a crossed cheque made payable to The Vertikal Press Ltd to: Subscriptions, The Vertikal Press, PO Box 6998, Brackley, Northants NN13 5WV. Address changes should also be sent to this address. Please include the address label from a recent issue with all correspondence and allow 3 months for changes to be effective.

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Kran & Bühne: The Vertikal Press also publishes a German magazine which deals with the same issues as Cranes & Access, but is written for German users and buyers. Details available on request.

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New Italian crane company PC Produzioni unveils RT, UpRight launches push-around scissor lifts, JLG to drop pivot steer telehandlers, New 2.5 t crane from Valla, JCB launches its



smallest telehandler, New Holland Lift platform, CAT launches new

17m telehandler, Aldercote launches fork platform, Kobelco develops SL4500 'Light', Badger unveils its new

RT, Lavendon launches EPL-Skylift, Ranger pulls out of Dinolift distribution, Hitchens enter rental.

Heavy lifting and transportation 17

As mobile cranes grow ever larger we view the latest batch of 2,000 tonne plus cranes planned by the big three and take a closer look at the two European-based international heavy lift companies taking over the special build mega crane market. We also review some interesting lift and transportation applications.



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Is the 40/50ft Rough Terrain scissor past its prime?

We review the market and speculate on what might be the platform of choice in the future. We also talk to UpRight's Richard Tindale about its new RT range, the thinking behind the design, manufacturing and marketing of the machines.

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Yes it's that time of year again when the Italians do what they do best - show off some weird and wonderful new cranes, telehandlers and access platforms at the SAIE show in Bologna.



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Our first supplement in co-operation with PASMA - the mobile access tower association. We look at the association, choosing and using access towers, future trends developments, and non powered, low level access.



Crane Interest Group 51

We review the hot topics raised at the UK's annual crane rental company meeting - the CPA Crane Interest Group.

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The Vertikal Press

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Design & Artwork by:

bp design Ltd.
Tel: 01707 642141 Fax: 01707 646806
email: studio@bpdesign.info

ISSN: 1467-0852

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The Vertikal Press also publishes:



For users & buyers of lifting equipment
October 2009 Vol. 11 issue 7

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Press**

The Vertikal Press Ltd.
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c&a
comment

Tick box mentality

Are we ever trained?

Or put another way - is there ever a point where a person is trained enough?

Some thought provoking questions that have recently had some form of clarification - by the UK's Health and Safety Executive.

At the recent CPA Crane Interest Group open meeting, the HSE's Ian Simpson suggested that basic training on its own was not enough and warned companies that training 'cards' - such as CPCS, IPAF, PASMA etc - did not mean operators were fully trained and that they could 'come unstuck' if they did not carry out additional training and familiarisation.

This is one of those rare occasions that I totally agree with the HSE. I have an IPAF PAL card and recently attended a PASMA training course. What is blindingly obvious to me (and therefore hopefully most other people) is that these courses are the BARE MINIMUM requirements to begin using or erecting equipment. If the card holder does not regularly put his training to use it can be virtually useless.

Unfortunately, the 'tick box' mentality on UK construction sites means that you can use equipment if you have a card. Card? Tick - get on with it, even if you only got the card the day before, passed two years ago and have not used it since or never even seen the piece of equipment you are expected to operate.

Having not really used my 'cards' I would not want to erect an alloy tower up to 12 metres or drive a large truck mounted platform on a time pressured site situation without more familiarisation and ideally working alongside an expert for a while.

The HSE has obviously investigated several accidents recently where operators with the right card but precious little additional training have come unstuck. It is therefore saying that the lack of on the job experience and specific equipment familiarisation is a recipe for disaster and employers must do this to satisfy their legal requirements.

For crane operators this means that after gaining the CPCS red card they must be given additional training on each different crane they operate and must be supervised and monitored. It goes further than operators adding that Appointed Persons (AP) should be competent and experienced for the size and complexity of the lift.

Unfortunately, additional training and experience is not recognised by ticking a box. However with the HSE on its case, employers, main contractors and clients may now have to look a lot closer at who is operating equipment on site.

Mark Darwin

Please mail, email or fax any comments you may have, to the editor, stating if we may publish them or not.

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