

**Hi Leigh,**

First of all thank you for the great review in Cranes and Access Vol.11, Issue 9, of Ken Derry's book Chicago, A View From the Top.

I also attach an excerpt from the OSHA web site stating that its final

rule will likely mirror the C-DAC (Crane and Derrick Advisory Committee) posting by OSHA of October 9, 2008. When this is implemented every crane operator in the US will need to be tested and certified by an accredited entity (including a written and practical exam with no "grandfathering-in"). You'll find the criteria for this mentioned in the attachment (only the last 82 or so pages of the 498 page attachment are line and verse of the new standard).

Anyway, the rumor is that it may actually be signed before July 2010, but this is a cut and paste from the official OSHA website:

#### **Cranes and Derricks**

More than 80 workers lose their lives each year in crane-related fatalities. OSHA's existing rule, which dates back to 1971, is partly based on industry consensus standards that are over 40 years old. On October 9, 2008, OSHA issued a comprehensive proposed revision of the Cranes and Derricks standard. The proposed rule addresses electrocution hazards, crushing and struck-by hazards, overturning, procedures for ensuring that the weight of the load is within the crane's rated capacity, and ensures that crane operators have the required knowledge and skills by requiring independent verification of operator ability. This year, OSHA completed the public hearing and comment phase of the process and is now analyzing the public's input and preparing the final rule. OSHA plans to issue the final rule in July 2010.

If you would be interested in just how we are addressing the issue of crane certification let me know, I would be happy to put you in touch with those involved from my end.

**Thanks, John.**

*The writer, from the USA, approved the publication of the letter but preferred that we do not disclose his full name due to his job and position. His agreement also said: "The letter as edited is fine for publication Please forward any correspondences that express interest in the letter to my attention."*

**Dear Sir,**

I read with interest the brief article in your January issue and on Vertikal of the latest escapades of a certain family company and thank you for raising the flag regarding these conmen as that is what they are. It also goes well beyond simply not paying people but that's another issue and you probably won't publish what I could tell you about them anyway. The point I really wanted to make was that there are a few crooks in this industry and they are the same people that pop up time and time again, taking shortcuts across the board, with safety, paperwork and the way they treat employees and certifications. On top of this as soon as things get a bit sticky or they have milked their suppliers dry they let the business go down and pop up under a new identity. I cannot for the life of me understand how people like this keep finding mugs to give them work or sell them equipment.. or for that matter cross hire plant and equipment to them.

They do though time and time again... now finally my main point.. Why don't the industry associations like the CPA or in some cases the training bodies like the CPCS etc.. do something about it?

**Dear Sir,**

I thought I would drop you a line to say how good it was to read Shane Wolfords etter in this months Cranes & Access.

It is encouraging to hear of people like him responding like this simply to bring some Christmas cheer to someone elses life. We could do with a bit more of this sort of neighbourly support or at the very least to be made aware of it when it occurs. I get fed up with hearing about all the antisocial goings on in this country and about how selfish we all are these days. I am an optimist and think that this spirit is more alive in this country than the tabloid media would have us believe although I am not downplaying Mr Wolfords good deed, Au contraire my hats off to him, just a shame that the surprise was spoilt. Please do continue to report on such things when you can we all need some positive inspirational items, especially in these tough times.

**Yours**

**Paul Burridge  
Matlock**

**Dear Editor,**

My copy of Cranes & Access arrived today, it seemed to be late for you to be delivering a magazine marked December/January near to the end of January! Anyway I am not writing to complain about your lateness, the magazine was so good that I soon forgot this. I very much liked the Look back at 2009, but it would be nice if you had some more news from Holland in it.

This is the best magazine for hoogwerkers and cranes no question about that so please keep up the good work and I will send you a new request for an extra copy (I will pay don't worry) as I don't seem to get it each month. I think someone in the office gets it before me sometimes! So will have you send one to my home.

Good work

**Jos Konings, Breda, Netherlands**

Dear Leigh,

I wanted to write to you about something that I am increasing finding strange in our industry, it is not related to anything in a recent issue of the magazine although it does concern a comment in your sister magazine sometime back where it was written that you were no longer doing the Vertikal Check at Platformer Days because the days of printed specifications being different from the actual machines has passed.

Well I can tell you that this is most definitely not the case, as you know at PSE we sell and service a wide range of access products, in fact we will supply our customers with any brand of lift that they want like at a supermarket but for access platforms. Because of this we get to see and work with the different makes all the time and I can tell you that there is often a great difference between what the sales brochures say and what the manufacturers deliver.

Some suppliers are worse than others this is normal, but we come across differences all of the time and some of them are more than just minor variances! I think that this is a subject that you or maybe IPAF should be taking more seriously. It is incredible that when we or one of our customers finds that the machine they bought is not the same as the one that they thought they bought the attitude of the manufacturer is quite relaxed. Can you imagine buying a car that you thought was under four metres long to go in your parking, only to find when you have it that it is 4.5 metres and you can not get it in? You would automatically have a legal case and the dealer would do something like take it back and offer you an alternative. Try that with a platform manufacturer! The attitude is usually 'The specifications are only a guide and we can change them at any time without telling you'.

I think that this practice is far more widespread than you might think, I would be interested to know if any of your other readers think that this is a problem or not.

Best Regards,

Arjan Roelse  
Platform Sales Europe  
Dordrecht

*When we started the Vertikal Check events the discrepancy in dimensions between the specifications and the actual machines was quite pronounced. By the time we stopped two years ago major differences were very rare although few manufacturers specifications were precisely right - Manitou being a rare exception. It would be interesting to hear if the issue that Arjan Roelse raises is a common experience or not - your views please.  
Ed*

Dear Mark.

Just got the latest Cranes & Access great issue yet again... but I have a complaint, only because I care you understand, this years hire rate report was possibly the best yet in terms of reality although I still question a couple of the numbers, some of those sending their forms back are being economic with the truth that is not the complaint though nothing much you guys can do about that the rates are I assume in pounds? Maybe I am missing it but I looked everywhere and no where could I find a currency sign. So wondered in some cases if it was in Euros or dollars one or two of the categories could easily have been. Just wanted to flag that otherwise first class.

Many thanks and keep up the good work

Roger Miles

*Mr Miles was clearly looking at the access report and as such is correct, somehow we missed any currency symbols from the access charts although we can confirm they are all in Sterling. The crane and telehandler charts did all carry £ signs. Many thanks for those of you who pointed this out we will make sure that we do not make the same mistake next year.  
Ed*

THE PEOPLE AND MATERIAL LIFTING EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST  
www.haulotte.com

**We meet your needs**

Haulotte GROUP  
Experience in Innovation