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EN12999 A3 grinds towards conclusion

Further to an appeal to the CEN technical board from the Italian Standards Body, UNI, a meeting was held on 11th February in Haan, Germany, in order to resolve the issues relating to the new version of EN12999, the European Standard for Loader Cranes.

The meeting concluded that a series of minor changes to the draft could address the concerns raised by UNI. ALLMI technical director, Alan Johnson, comments: "the changes are relatively minor, with the most significant amendment being the reversion back to the older standard EN954-1:1996 in relation to safety related parts of control systems as opposed to EN ISO 13849-1. There's also a requirement for a warning device to be fitted, which indicates when hydraulically operated stabiliser legs are not in the transport position. This is new for hydraulically operated stabilisers, although it has been in place for manual legs since October 2007. Member countries had until 15th March to raise any objections to these changes and it's now at the stage where a second formal vote will be conducted by CEN. With no firm date being given for the new standard to come into force, it is important that importers, installers and operators continue to declare conformity directly against the Essential Health and Safety Requirements of the Machinery Directive."



BS7121 Part 4: 2010 released

On 28th February, the British Standards Institution (BSI) released the new version of 'BS7121 Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Cranes: Part 4 - Lorry Loaders'. With an increased emphasis on lift categorisation and the formalisation of lift planning, it's a document that users of loader cranes will need to be familiar with. Due to its involvement in the writing of the Standard, ALLMI is of course very well placed to advise its members on the Standard's requirements and to incorporate them into the Association's various training schemes. Executive director, Tom Wakefield, said: "in terms of standards and legislation development, 2009 was a year which saw a lot of activity within the lorry loader industry. The implementation of the new machinery directive, as well as the revision of BS7121 Part 4 and EN12999, has meant there are new requirements that importers, service agents and end users need to be aware of and as the industry

Association it's our job to ensure that members are kept fully informed on these matters.

We've achieved this through our usual channels of bulletins, quarterly newsletters, magazine editorial and general meetings, as well as providing ad hoc advice; but in addition to that, following the release of the new Part 4 and the machinery directive, we've updated each of the ALLMI training schemes to reflect the new requirements and to further ensure that members remain compliant. The launch of our Appointed Person training course later this year will also add to this, as will the publication of the ALLMI / CPA Best Practice Guide for the Safe Use of Lorry Loaders, the aim of which is to clarify and expand upon the requirements of BS7121 Part 4."



ALLMI membership up 30%

With a 30 percent increase in membership, 2009 was an excellent year for ALLMI and 2010 appears to be following in the same vein. With seven new members since the start of the year, and with several more applications pending, the growth of the Association shows no signs of slowing.



New job specific training guidance for members

ALLMI is about to launch a new guidance note on the importance of site safety, job specific and familiarisation training. The guidance addresses the various aspects of this type of training that employers need to be aware of:

- Safety Awareness
- Legislation
- Responsibilities
- Depot Safety
- Site Safety
- Documentation
- Vehicle Familiarisation
- Product Familiarisation
- Customers
- Company Procedures

Operators Forum chairman, Steve Frazer-Brown said: "all new employees, irrespective of their knowledge and experience, should receive instructions and guidance upon commencing work for a new employer. Employees should be made aware of any specific safety arrangements the new employer has, and they should be familiarised with their surroundings, as well as staff, their vehicle, lifting equipment and accessories. We've been looking at this issue for a while, as it's become clear to us that some employers in the industry don't give this area of their operations the attention it deserves: or it may be that they do, but it's not recorded and formalised which can create problems later on, should an incident occur. We hope that the guidance will be seen as practical, helpful advice which members can use to improve the running of their businesses."

ALLMI General Meetings

The next General Meeting for manufacturers/service agents will be held in Coventry on 15th April.

The Operators' Forum will hold its next General Meeting on 17th June as part of the Vertical Days event at Haydock Park Racecourse.

