

Hello Alexander,

At the moment I am working in Saudi Arabia and am not in Holland often anymore, I notice that on page 35 and page 40 of the November issue of Cranes & Access I notice that you have used two photo' which I took. The blue Manitowoc fell over while it was standing on a backfilled storm flood drain. It was also operating on more then 100 percent rated capacity...

It was salvaged by an Liebherr LR 1400/2 and Kobelco CKE 2500 from Shangvi Movers and two local cranes. Is it possible that I can receive a hard copy of this issue since I like to collect everything in which a picture I took is published.

Kind regards,

We have withheld the name of this correspondent sent to Alexander Ochs, from our Freiburg office, as a precaution based on the nature of the information contained in the letter. A copy has been sent to this online reader. Ed

The following is an open letter to Colin Wood of the CPA, the organisation that represents most crane rental companies in the UK.

Dear Colin

SUPPLY OF MACHINERY (SAFETY) REGULATIONS 2008

Further to our recent conversation relating to the delay in publication of EN13000:2010 Cranes - Mobile Cranes I would like to confirm the HSE position with regard to compliance with the Machinery Directive. The latest version of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC, as enacted in the UK by the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008, came into force on the 29 December 2009.

As with previous versions, the Directive requires manufacturers/importers of machinery, such as Mobile Cranes, to either declare that their equipment complies with a transposed Harmonised European Standard or that it directly satisfies the Essential Health and Safety Requirements (EHSR's) of the Machinery Directive.

The existing European Standard EN13000:2004 does not provide presumption of conformity to the new Directive and the delay in publishing its replacement, prEN13000:2010 has the consequence that manufacturers / importers will no longer be able to declare against a harmonised standard and will have to directly satisfy the EHSR's of the new Directive.

Over Ride Key Switch

The new Directive has introduced a requirement under EHSR 1.2.1. for consideration of reasonably foreseeable misuse of the equipment. Reasonably foreseeable misuse is defined as "the use of machinery in a way not intended in the instructions for use, but which may result from readily predictable human behaviour". One example of this is inappropriate use of the over ride device on the Rated Capacity Limiting (RCL) system. If you recall prEN13000:2010 addresses foreseeable misuse with several new requirements that include the introduction of a new set up button for rigging the crane and relocation of the RCL over ride key switch out side of the drivers cab. The standard also introduces the requirement for a data logger to monitor the RCL and use of the set up button or over ride key switch.

Implementation Date

The new Machinery Directive came into force on the 29 December 2009 without a transition period.

Where the manufacture of a crane was completed after this date then crane must meet the requirements of new Directive.

Any cranes where manufacture was completed prior to the 29 December 2009 may be sold after this date to the old Directive if the declaration of conformity was completed and the CE mark applied prior to this date.

Dear Sir,

I saw a large hardware company's truck delivering timber last week. The truck was fitted with loader crane which appeared to be well maintained. The truck was clean and the driver looked like he knew what he was doing, reversing into a job site first thing in the morning with assistance from traffic controllers.

What stood out was the array of soft slings that were stored on the headboard of the truck tray, just looped over the top bar. They may have been in reasonable condition, however some of them were terribly faded, to the point of it being hard to distinguish the colour. If it rained, I imagine that they would get wet as well. This certainly is not best practice, and is also not a once off occurrence.

They are a fantastic tool to have but care must be taken with their storage and use. As with any product that you may be looking to buy, there are many choices in the availability of these fantastic tools.

The price is no longer as high as they once were with the availability of imported product, but remember that you only get what you pay for. If you are looking for products in the lower price range, you need to make sure they comply with Australian Standards.

There were often used soft slings left over when I used to unload goods from containers, or unloading cargo from boats on the wharf. As tempting as it may have seemed, these soft slings and strapping systems were produced to a lower standard than we demand. You could feel the difference in your hands. Check with our specialist VCA members if you are after more detailed information. They will be happy to help.

Have a safe week.

Cheers for now,

Brent Stacey Liaison Officer

Victorian Crane Association m. 0439 556 867 f. 03 9772 9968

Whilst I appreciate that this may cause problems for some of your members with equipment on order where there are long lead times, the implementation date and contents of the latest revision of the Machinery Directive have been known and well publicised to industry bodies for several years.

Summary

In summary from 29 December 2009 manufacturers / importers of mobile cranes have to declare directly against the EHSR's of the new Directive. In preparing their declaration they must take account of foreseeable misuse of the over ride key switch.

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 the HSE has powers to take enforcement action with both suppliers and users of work equipment, such as Mobile Cranes, where they have not complied with Health and Safety Legislation. I would ask you to bring the matters contained in this letter to the attention of your members.

Yours sincerely

Ian Simpson

*HM Principal Specialist Inspector of Health and Safety
Mechanical Engineering Specialist Group - North*

Letters to the editor:

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