

Liebherr LTM1050-3.1

The vast majority of Liebherr's models have until now been made by the German based companies Conrad and NZG. However for their latest crane model they have turned to the Dutch company WSI. The crane in question is the LTM1050-3.1, a 50 tonne capacity three axle All Terrain crane with a maximum boom and extension length of 54 metres - comprising, 38 metres of boom and up to 16 metres of extension.

The first impression of the model is that it is highly detailed, as might be expected from WSI. Underneath the chassis it has fully a replicated transmission and suspension system and although these are modelled in plastic, the quality is high. The tyres and wheels are very good with a particularly fine tread pattern on the tyres. Each axle can steer independently so the crane can be posed with crab steering or co-ordinated if required.

The details on the carrier are excellent. Some of the graphics are absolutely tiny and they add greatly to the realistic look of the crane. At the rear, there is a tool box and very fine detailing of the lights and number plate. The carrier cab is great too. The hook block tie-down loop for road travel is precisely to scale and tiny, while the door steps and handles look completely authentic. A ladder is attached to the underside of the cab in exactly the same manner as



The Liebherr LTM1050-3.1

on the real machine. There is also some more really good modelling behind the cab with mesh grids which look very authentic.

A particularly nice feature on this model are the outriggers. The cylinder rods are smooth with the screw mechanism being internal so they look realistic. The pads have a working pinning mechanism which allows them to be fixed in an offset way so they are within the width of the crane when the outrigger beams are retracted. This is the first time this feature has been replicated on a scale model.

The crane superstructure continues the high level detail with hydraulic hosing and a nicely replicated cab interior. The counterweight has been made in sections which can be attached just like the real crane. Detailing on the boom includes various spooling drums and cable runs, and looks good. A folding swingaway extension completes the model, and it can be stripped down to form an optional assembly jib, although it can not be set to replicate an offset angle, which is a pity.

A good metal hook is supplied, as is a dummy load with the Liebherr name on it. On the review model the winch was very loose so it would not hold any significant weight.

This is an excellent mobile crane model and WSI can produce it in special colours/livery for orders as low as 100 units, so it would be a great promotional model for crane hire companies. It is available from the Liebherr webshop for €98 and is highly recommended.

To read the full review of this model visit www.cranesetc.co.uk



Very fine mesh details



Convincing cab



Hydraulic hoses and tiny graphics



Set up for a lift

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	7
Detail (max 30)	25
Features (max 20)	16
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	13
Overall (max 100)	81%

New operator's safety guide

C&a books & models

UK-based access rental company Facelift has published a new pocket-sized guide 'Operator's Safety Guide to Mobile Elevating Work Platforms'. The company has conferred with numerous industry sources and experts - including the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF), the Health & Safety Executive and The Vertikal Press, publishers of Cranes & Access - although the most important contribution has probably come from Facelift's training and technical staff using their 'hands-on' experience to tailor the guide to real users.

Facelift managing director Gordon Leicester, a long-time champion of safety while working at height, says that the project was spurred on by the need for a more visually attractive and less expensive guide to the selection and safe use of aerial lifts which was cheap enough to be given away with every rental and for contractors to issue to all of its employees.

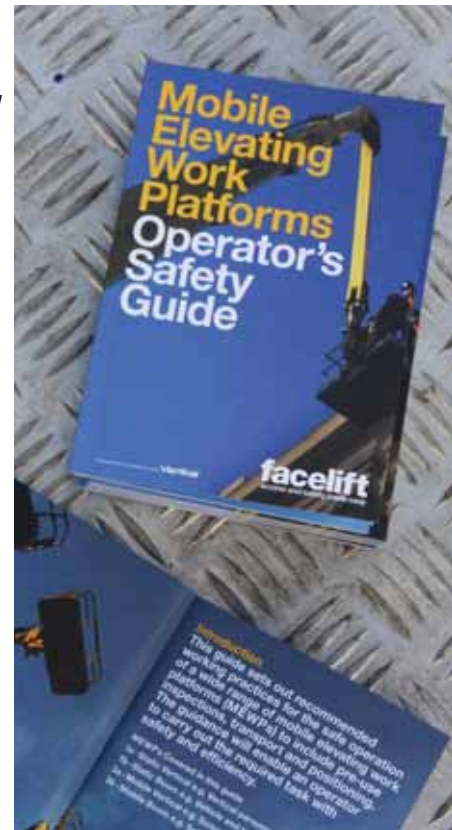
The 48 page guide certainly has 'curb appeal' with liberal use of good quality coloured photography, combined with a good print and

binding job. The basic content is of course based on guides that have gone before such as the IPAF Operators Safety Guide. It has the advantage in that it has been written with just the UK market in mind, although given the fact that EU regulations are standard throughout Europe, it will prove useful over a much wider area.

The guide is comprehensive, well written and concise, uses plain and to the point English and most importantly it is well illustrated making it easy to get the point while encouraging those who

hate manuals to read it. We were impressed enough to offer support to the project on the basis that its distribution could make a significant positive contribution to operator knowledge and safety. As part of that support we plan to insert a free copy into the UK distribution of the May issue of Cranes & Access.

The Mobile Elevating Work Platform Operator's Safety Guide is available to download from the Facelift web site for free, while hardcopies can be order at a price of £1 a copy with a minimum order of 10 copies. www.facelift.co.uk/mewpguide



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