

Dear Leigh,

Following your editorial on Vertikal.Net regarding the grey market for access machines - more important is another fact:

There are more and more companies in Europe who are, for example, buying used machines in the US for a cheap price and then selling them to European customers without CE declaration. I had such examples several times already where customers, especially end-users are asking us to support them when they have had a problem with their machine. Then we find out that this machine does not have a CE cert and we have to tell them that they are not allowed to use this machine in Germany.

This of course is very irritating for the customer and does not leave a good impression for the whole MEWP market, regardless of which manufacturer it is.

Of course the customer who bought the machine should know what he is buying and what he has to look for and to check that the documentation is complete, but the first thing these people look for is the price.

Bad luck for the customer later on.....

regards

Holger Johan
POWER-LIFT GmbH

We totally agree with the sentiment expressed in this letter. However, the point we were making in the editorial is that should manufacturers not sensibly support those companies that buy equipment outside of the EU and then seek to have it properly modified to the CE specification. Some do and some do not. We are all in favour of 'throwing the book' at those dealers who buy non-CE equipment and then sell it within the EU without a full and proper certification. Such antics should be treated as a criminal offence and enforced rigidly.

Dear Leigh,

Please find attached photo of a man on a roof. The well-known contractor was carrying out some sealant repairs to some valley drainage channels on the roof. A single ladder (untied and not footed) was used to gain access on to the roof.

The angle that the valley ran off meant that the workman was unable to reach the areas he needed to, leading him to take the risk of standing on the wet roof with no edge protection risking a potentially fatal fall.

I took this photo (apologies for poor image - done with camera phone) from the car park some distance away. After approaching the entrance to the well-known pub and restaurant chain I asked him what type of work his company did and after introducing my company to him he quickly informed me that he knew he was taking a risk but this was often the case as his company failed to assess what his access equipment needs on these jobs would be so he had to make do.

On getting home I looked up the company website and was saddened to see what appears to be a very well respected company which appears to take health and safety seriously if you judged them on their membership of the various organizations (ROSPA, CHAS, SCA & Construct Line) listed but on this occasion seemed to get it wrong.

The chap I spoke to was very keen for me to contact their managing director and I hope that maybe I can enlighten him as to the huge choice of safe access equipment available for his employees to use in these situations.

Regards

James O'Grady



The photo of the man in question.

Dear Cranes & Access

I wonder if you have heard of a debate that appears to be running between a number of wind companies following on from the accident that occurred in Germany with a Liebherr LTM 11200 owned by KVN?

It seems, from what we have heard, that some operators (most likely those with a vested interest?) in the industry are suggesting that telescopic boomed cranes are more susceptible to the effects of lateral wind loading stresses transferred from the suspended load/components during turbine installation than lattice boom cranes! This is of course totally without foundation. Cranes whether lattice or telescopic are built to similar margins of safety and have similar wind ratings. In fact it can be argued that a lattice boomed crane is more susceptible to wind from certain directions. The fact is that no matter what type of crane is employed it will have a similar wind rating and as long as used properly will be perfectly safe. Casting aspersions such as this does our industry no good whatsoever and confuses fact from fiction. Shame too on those who listen to such rubbish. As an industry we need to focus all of our intention on making sure that we maintain the highest possible standards and not on producing negative spin in an attempt to hinder competition.

Regards

Name with-held at editor's discretion

Note: This was one of two emails and a letter on the same subject all three of which said much the same or at least had the same theme. This is of course a very interesting subject which we plan to follow up on. In the meantime we would very much appreciate the views of others and particularly from those making this argument.

ED



Dear Sir,

Attached is a copy of a wrapping sleeve of a popular brand of overalls purchased in New Zealand. At first glance I saw the man was not wearing any fall restraint then noticed he was also riding the hook.

One has to ask - Is it an old design or a simple marketing error with those involved not aware of current health and safety laws.

I have to say I found it amusing and we have advised Yakka of their error.

Regards

Rod Macdonald

We are betting that it is an old logo? Looks like something from the USA in the late 1920's the sort of Empire State building times. Hopefully we will find out.

Ed

Dear Sir,

I very much liked your article in the latest Cranes & Access on Mobile tower cranes. I have personal experience of recent Spierings models and some of the early Munster cranes which were well ahead of their time. I have always been surprised that these fantastic machines are not more popular around the world, they are so much more efficient than large mobiles for so many jobs not just the obvious ones.

I was also sorry to see that Mr Spierings is struggling with the business at the moment, I am sure that there are many like me who wish him well and hope that the business comes back soon. Also that the new City Boy crane that he showed at Bauma will still go ahead. This looks like a fantastic machine and I am sure it is the future for all cranes in the way it is designed.

That's all I wanted to say, keep up the nice work,

Henning Jordan

Recent Poll results

Visitors to Vertikal.Net were asked

1. "Do you think 2010 will be a better year than 2009?"

A total of 562 readers voted with the result –

323 answered – Yes = 57.5%

239 answered – No = 42.5%

2. "Should routine overload testing be dropped as part of a thorough inspection?"

A total of 643 readers voted with the result being split right down the middle.

324 said Yes – overload testing should be dropped

319 said No – It should be retained

3. "If you visited Bauma what were your feelings after seeing the Liebherr stand?"

A total of 161 readers voted -

105 answered – "I was impressed" = 65%

42 answered – "It was an excessive folly" = 26%

And 14 answered – "I was there but did not see it" = 9% which is incredible!

Letters to the editor: Please send letters to the editor: Cranes&Access: PO Box 6998, Brackley NN13 5WY, UK.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length. We also point out that letters are the personal views of our readers and not necessarily the views of the Vertikal Press Ltd or its staff.



Edmolift have recognised that equipment intended for the building site is simply not suitable for use in refined and confined environments

Whilst the vast majority of compact access platform manufacturers have focused their efforts on the construction market, Edmolift have taken an entirely fresh approach. This new direction has much wider appeal with the Micro being design specifically for public places. Offices, retailers, leisure, entertainment, hospitals, hotels, bars and restaurants are included in this far larger marketplace.

Where other compact access platforms are too big, awkward and heavy, the Micro will succeed. It's quiet, lightweight and highly manoeuvrable, easy to use, ergonomic and very, very compact.

Micro
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