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All training centres above offer IPAF approved and audited courses for Operators of Mobile aerial work platforms, European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

See www.ipaf.org for full listing

New US crane rules mandate operator certification

The US Crane & Derricks in Construction Final Rule has finally been published. A four year transition period begins in mid-November before all sections effectively become law.

The US Department of Labor says that the new rules will affect around 257,000 businesses and 4.8 million workers, and are intended to reduce crane fatalities on construction sites in the USA which are thought to be around 100 a year. The Department estimates that the new standards will save 22 lives and yield a saving for the economy of \$55 million a year after allowing for the costs of implementation.

Key changes include:

- Operator certification and training

All (construction related) employees working with cranes, including riggers, signalmen oilers etc will need to have had proper training and be qualified or declared competent for the job they carry out, while crane operators will also need to be independently certified for the specific crane type.

- New rules for overhead power lines

The standard includes a large section on working near or under or driving under overhead power lines with strict details of safe distances and work practices that must be followed.

- Tower crane inspections

Tower crane components must now be fully inspected

immediately prior to the crane being erected.

- Ground conditions and outriggers

The standard goes into considerable detail on ground conditions and outrigger or stabiliser set-up and the need to understand ground conditions.

The new rules also place greater responsibilities on general contractors. For example, they will now be obliged to inform anyone working with a crane on site of the presence of any underground voids or poor ground conditions.

A full report and comment, along with the full text of the new rules is now available for download from the library section of www.vertikal.net

All crane operators will need to be certified by 2014



Who trained him then?



c&a

training

Liebherr GB adds crawler crane training

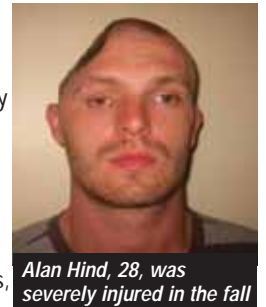
Liebherr Great Britain's CPCS accredited training school is now offering crawler crane (A02) operator training and testing.

The training centre - located at the company's Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, headquarters - has expanded its curriculum to include both CPCS and Liebherr's own certification. The new courses, which can also be held at customer's premises, have been created specifically to provide certified compliance for lifting operations and lifting equipment requirements in accordance with British Standards for the safe use of cranes.

Lack of training costs £25,000 plus...

Two brothers have been hit with £25,000 in fines and costs, while a young employee has been left severely handicapped, following a fall during demolition work.

Alan Hind, 28, was helping to demolish an industrial building in Carlisle when he fell six metres to the concrete floor below permanently damaging his sight and hearing.



Alan Hind, 28, was severely injured in the fall

The Health and Safety Executive prosecuted Robert and Eric Murray following the incident at Watts Yard on London Road in Carlisle on 27th February 2008. In the fall, Hind suffered

16 skull fractures, broke his jaw in three places, fractured his wrist, damaged a kidney and is now deaf in his right ear and blind in his left eye. Parts of his brain were so badly damaged that they had to be removed. He has also had to wait six months for a titanium plate to be inserted into his damaged skull.

Eric Murray, trading as E.J. Murray (Steel Structures), was prosecuted for breaching Regulation 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 by failing to take measures to prevent workers falling and being injured.

Robert Murray, trading as Murray Structures, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 5 of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 by not hiring trained workers and failing to ensure the work was planned and carried out safely.

David Charnock, HSE construction inspector in Cumbria, said: "Mr Hind is lucky to be alive following his fall, which could and should have been prevented. He sustained multiple injuries which will affect him for the rest of his life. Unfortunately neither Robert nor Eric Murray took the necessary safety precautions. The workers they employed were casual labourers and did not have the skills or experience to work on industrial roofs. As this incident demonstrates, carrying out work at height can result in serious injury and even death if not properly planned. Steps must be taken to prevent people falling, and everyone involved in the work must be properly trained."

Robert Murray was fined £8,000 plus £4,000 towards the cost of the prosecution, while Eric Murray was fined £5,000 plus costs of £8,000.