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New Annex

Released for ALLMI / CPA Best Practice Guide

ALLMI and CPA have released an Annex to the Best Practice Guide (BPG) on the Safe Use of Lorry Loaders - 'Annex L - Guidance for persons involved in receiving telephone enquiries and quotation requests for lifting operations with a lorry loader'. Alan Johnson, ALLMI technical director and co-author of the Annex, comments:

"When we launched the Best Practice Guide at Vertikal Days in June, there was an extensive Q&A session following the presentations, during which we were asked whether it would be possible to produce specific guidance, template documentation and process charts to assist staff involved with enquiries

from customers requesting a lifting operation. As many loader crane operators are in the process of implementing new practices and procedures as a result of the Best Practice Guide, it was felt this would be a well-timed and worthwhile project to undertake."

The Annex contains the following:

- A definition of a Contract Lift Vs a Hired and Managed Lift (including the different types of Contract Lift).
- A flow chart illustrating the process for determining whether a Hired and Managed Lift or a Contract Lift is required.
- A template form to use at the enquiry stage, to establish what type of lift is being requested.
- A flow chart illustrating the process for dealing with a request for a Contract Lift, providing guidance on the information that should be obtained.
- A template form to use when dealing with a request for a Contract Lift.
- Advice on contract and insurance related issues.

To emphasise the need for, and importance of, Annex L, the following are three of the most common questions ALLMI is asked concerning lift planning:

Q: Is following the Best Practice Guide and BS7121 Part 4 a legal requirement?

A: BS7121 Part 4 (upon which the Best Practice Guide is based) is an Approved Code of Practice and in essence, guidance and job-specific interpretation on how to comply with the law in relation to a particular industry. Any company unfortunate enough to find themselves in a court of law would have to be able to justify why they had not followed the industry standard, or demonstrate that the systems they had put in place were at least equal to those

contained within an Approved Code of Practice. The Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) is generic legislation applicable to all types of lifting equipment, whereas BS7121 Part 4 is the Approved Code of Practice specific to lorry loaders, the purpose of which is to ensure adherence to LOLER and all other applicable legislation.

Q: Does this affect us as we don't really carry out Contract Lifts as such?

A: The backbone of the guidance contained within the Best Practice Guide and reinforced in this new Annex, is that unless you have specifically qualified between you and your customer who is responsible for what, and have a documented process, then you could very easily be carrying out a de-facto Contract Lift. This has both insurance and legal implications.



Q: Our operators already carry out a risk assessment when they get on site, because until they get there we don't always know what we'll be lifting?

A: Regulation 8 of LOLER states that all lifting operations must be planned by a competent person before the lift takes place. This does not necessarily mean that all loader crane lifts will require a site visit or site specific planning. The Annex will help determine whether it falls within the scope of a Hired and Managed Lift or a Contract Lift, and if it is a Contract Lift, whether or not any generic documentation

used by your company will be sufficient.

ALLMI recommends that all operators read and understand Annex L at the earliest possible opportunity. At the next ALLMI Operators' Forum meeting on 26th November there will be a presentation and discussion on this subject. If you're a fleet owner and you'd like to attend, please contact the ALLMI office. The latest version of the ALLMI / CPA Best Practice Guide, which includes Annex L, can be downloaded from www.allmi.com and www.cpa.uk.net



ALLMI General Meetings

On 22nd October in Coventry, ALLMI will hold its second General Meeting of the year for manufacturers and service agents. Members will receive the usual trading update, as well as important information on technical and legislative issues affecting the lorry loader industry. On 26th November, the second General Meeting for ALLMI's fleet owner members will include a presentation from Brian Sutherland of Elliott Hire on securing of loads for travel, as well as an update on the activities of the Forum's Executive Committee, a detailed explanation of Annex L to the BPG, and further news on the development of ALLMI's Appointed Person training course. ALLMI will also be looking for feedback on the development of a new training DVD.

