



New Slinger/Signaller Course

An increasing number of businesses are moving towards a point where all of its employees or subcontractors have received formal accredited training for the duties that they perform. With this in mind ALLMI will shortly launch a new Slinger/Signaller training course, building on the HSE commended ALLMI lorry loader training programme.

The course contains 13 modules including legislation, pre and post operational checks, lift planning, storage and maintenance and the safe use of slings. Course participants will also receive instruction on hand signals and the correct use of radio and telephone communication when performing Signaller duties. On successful

completion of the course, participants will be issued with an ALLMI certificate, and will receive the ALLMI Slinger/Signaller manual, a 28 page, A4 document that provides a useful guide to slinging and signalling issues complete with tips and reminders. Most importantly of course, they will also be issued with an ALLMI Slinger-



Slinging items such as a Piano require great care and placing them at height requires clear signals

Signallers card, as proof of having been trained and reached the required standard. The strength of the course content comes from the knowledge and expertise of ALLMI's Training Standards Committee, which includes representatives from major loader crane Manufacturers and Importers, along with some of the leading crane training companies in the UK. The knowledge base has recently been further enhanced by the addition of a representative from the ALLMI Operators' Forum, currently Peter Duckett from the WTB Group. The Operators' Forum is a division of ALLMI specifically for fleet owners of loader cranes and provides a valuable additional perspective on all training related issues.

Tom Wakefield, general manager of ALLMI, said: "The ALLMI Training Standards Committee has spent a great deal of time and effort putting this course together during the past year. Although in some cases we would expect the

course to be delivered back to back with ALLMI Lorry Loader training, the Slinger/Signaller course is a stand alone course. The content is very comprehensive, to the point that the qualification will allow cardholders to use their skills when performing Slinger/Signaller duties with other types of lifting equipment as well as lorry loaders."

For further information, please contact Tom Wakefield at ALLMI.

When lifting unusual shaped items, poor placement of slings can damage the goods



New ALLMI Chairman

ALLMI's General meeting on the 4th October saw Mark Rigby appointed as the association's new chairman, taking over from Alan Johnson after three and half years in the role. As a director of T H White Ltd, the Palfinger cranes importer for England and Wales, Rigby's experience of the lorry loader industry made him a natural successor to Alan Johnson. Previously filling the position of ALLMI commercial director, he has switched roles with Johnson, who will now oversee the commercial activities undertaken by the Association.

Rigby's involvement with ALLMI goes back five years and started with his work on the ALLMI Steering Group, a Committee set up with the task of transforming ALLMI into a more effective trade association. Since that time, ALLMI has gone from strength to strength, merging with ALLMI Training Ltd, which has helped provide the Association with the benefits of a team of full time staff. The same period has seen ALLMI forge closer links with end users of the equipment through the development of the ALLMI Operators' Forum, the membership of which includes some of the biggest lorry loader fleet owners in the UK.



Mark Rigby (L) takes over from Alan Johnson

Buyers Co-operative

A Buyers Co-operative has also been established, which allows members to benefit from group buying power and which has recently led to one ALLMI member saving over £3,000 on its insurance premiums. It is the intention that ALLMI will soon be able to offer its members bulk prices on steel and hydraulic oil as well. In addition, ALLMI has been undertaking the development of a new Thorough Examination training scheme for the industry and has also been revising its Code of Practice. In fact it would be fair to say that in the entirety of ALLMI's 28 year history, the last five years have seen the most significant changes taking place.

Market statistics

One of the first projects to be introduced under Rigby's chairmanship will be the publishing of market statistics for the lorry loader industry. The UK's key importers have agreed to submit their quarterly sales figures to ALLMI's accountant who will then produce a report on general market activity. The figures will be broken down into categories, which will be based on the Tonne-Metre rating of the cranes as well as their application. Not only will this help the companies contributing figures to accurately establish their own market share, but it will also provide all ALLMI members with valuable information on market trends.

At the recent meeting Rigby commented: "I'm glad to be carrying on the work that Alan and the team have done so well over the last few years."

Next Operators' Forum Meeting

The next meeting of the ALLMI Operators' Forum will be on 22nd November at the Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden, Coventry. The meeting will include a presentation on PUWER and LOLER, being delivered by Ian Simpson of the Health & Safety Executive.