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On the cover:

A rare photo of the new British-built Hugo push around lift built for HLS, designed specifically for retail, institutional and industrial applications.



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Vertikal Days



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HSS acquires UK Platforms from Haulotte, Sany America launches 150 tonne crawler, new MD for Ainscough Crane Hire, Genie Z135 incident update, Haulotte introduces anti entrapment device, Manitowoc files complaint against Sany, £20 million Nationwide fleet investment, Crane overturns while lifting people at school fete, Sandhurst moves into access, Export success for



France Elévateur, LSG sets up Dingli UK, 2008 AC700 fetches €2.5m at auction, Jekko appoints The Spiderlift Company for UK, 23.5m launch from Multitel, Manitex unveils 19 ton 1970C, Riwal takes 100% of Spanish operation.

Push-around platforms 17

The push-around lift is currently the hottest part of the end user and industrial work at height equipment market, with exciting new developments emerging from numerous manufacturers every few months. The latest machines are quite different from those of a few years ago and increasingly manually powered or all electric. We take a look at what's available for those facing plant shutdown work.

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We review the range of pick & carry products on offer - increasingly battery powered - as the number of manufacturers participating in this oldest of mobile crane markets continues to grow and industrial users rediscover their benefits.



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Our annual pull-out dealer guide lists all the crane, access equipment, telehandler and ancillary equipment currently produced along with distributors in the UK and Ireland complete with contact details.

Finance update 46

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Our extensive review of this year's Vertikal Days event at Haydock Park provides a flavour of the annual event. Next year's dates have been set for May14/15th.



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In the next C&A

In the next issue of Cranes & Access we have our annual Top 30 rental company survey listing fleet details for all crane, aerial lift and telehandler rental companies. We also feature Wind power lifting, Telehandlers, SAIE preview and Van and small truck mounted lifts. If you have any suggestions or contributions please contact our editorial team.

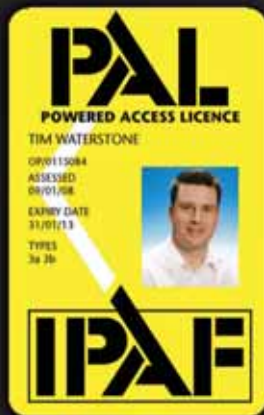
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Rick Hansen, Canadian wheelchair athlete

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c&a
comment



No news is bad news

It is now about six weeks since the tragic incident involving the overturning of a Genie Z135/70 boom lift at the Kimberly depot alongside the M25 motorway near London Heathrow airport in the UK ... and we are not closer to knowing what caused it. Kimberly and Genie appear to as much in the dark as the rest of us.

We recently asked the HSE what was going on and the reply a few days ago said "The HSE's investigation into the cause of the incident on the 5th June is on-going and our Laboratory (in Buxton) is currently examining the platform although it does not know what caused the overturning".

Following the incident Kimberly immediately stood down its fleet of Z135s which raises a few issues. Firstly the length of time the HSE takes to investigate and report on incidents - we have commented on this before AND yet it is still amazing that given the high profile of this incident, it takes so long even to produce a preliminary report.

Secondly the decision to stand down machines involved in incidents. In this case Kimberly acted immediately and took all of its Z135s out of service. However without any guidance from the HSE as to the cause of the accident a number of main contractors are now questioning whether the machine is still safe to use and many are refusing to allow it on site until they receive the official all clear from the HSE investigation.

The financial cost to Kimberly and other rental companies through lost revenue is significant and growing by the week. When a British Airways aircraft caught fire a few weeks ago, investigators issued a preliminary report within a week. There is no reason why the HSE should not be as prompt with its initial findings or at least have a minimum time period - say 28 days - within which it has to make a report.

We all now know the HSE is self-funding through its new cost recovery scheme - Fee for Intervention (FFI) - which charges £124 for each hour to those that break health and safety laws. Perhaps it is only fair that when it has seized a machine for investigation purposes - preventing the manufacturer or rental company from doing their own investigations - and its report then takes far longer than it should, compensation should be given to cover lost revenues on machines that are stood down for an unnecessarily long time due to lack of information?

Mark Darwin

Please mail, email or fax any comments you may have, to the editor, stating if we may publish them or not.



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