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All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

SCA announces crane training initiatives

The Singapore Cranes Association (SCA) has announced plans for a one-stop crane training centre, and a Crane Operators Register to help ensure crane operators keep their skills relevant and up-to-date.

Hawazi Daipi, Singapore senior parliamentary secretary education and manpower, said: "The crane industry supports our economic development and has raised the productivity of many industries. However we must ensure that there is a pipeline of trained, qualified and safety-conscious crane operators. The industry must help job-seekers understand the career paths available and the important role crane operators play in the safety of our workplaces and public spaces to encourage more Singaporeans to consider a career in the crane industry."



The SCA is to set up a crane operator training centre and register

LEEA introduces new training courses

The Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA) has launched two new practical training courses covering the thorough examination of electrical overhead travelling and portal cranes, and runways and crane structures.

The five-day courses prepare delegates for the thorough examination of equipment and the criteria for returning them to service. The Runways and Crane Structures diploma focuses on runway beams, jib and mobile gantry cranes and structures, while the Electric Overhead Travelling and Portal

Cranes diploma caters for delegates that already hold LEEA's Lifting Machines Power qualification. The courses can be held at the association's fully equipped training centre in Huntingdon, or at any suitable premises worldwide. For more information contact LEEA at mail@leea.co.uk.



Seven figure settlement for banksman

Kenneth Brown, 64, a fitter employed by UK-based Johnson Controls, has received a seven figure settlement after losing his leg following an incident with an aerial lift. Brown was directing the lift at the Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria when it surged forward crushing his left leg, causing extensive injuries which resulted in it being amputated above the knee. A spokesman for Johnson Controls said: "Johnson Controls has accepted a degree of personal responsibility, fully cooperated with the Health and Safety Executive investigation and pleaded guilty to a breach of Health & Safety regulation. The company also complied promptly with an improvement notice in respect of banksman procedures."

£8,000 for ladder fall

Dundas Chemical Company (Mosspark) Ltd, has been fined £8,000 after an employee fell four metres from a ladder. Matthew Maxwell, 70, had climbed to the top of a ladder to measure up a section of pipework which was to be replaced at the company's Omoa Works in Motherwell, Scotland. As he reached out to take the measurement, the ladder slipped down the wall until it hit a cable tray. Maxwell was bounced into the air and struck his head as he hit the ground, also sustaining bruising to his ribcage, a sprained thumb and a cut eye. He was off work for seven weeks.

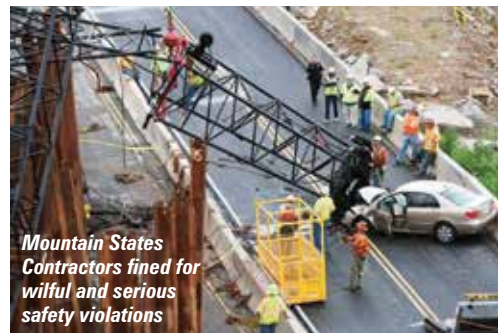


The court found that the company had failed to provide a safe system for working at height with ladders, had no suitable training or supervision for working at height with ladders, no ladder register and no process to ensure that workers did not undertake activities that could put them at risk if working alone. HSE Inspector Eve Macready said: "This was an entirely preventable incident which could have been even more serious if Mr Maxwell's fall was not broken when the ladder hit the cable tray."

\$61,000 for failed rope incident

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has fined Mountain States Contractors of Tennessee almost \$61,000, following an incident in May.

The lattice crane was working from a barge, replacing a bridge over the Cumberland River, when the main boom hoist cable broke, dropping the boom onto a passing car, injuring the driver. The company was fined \$56,000 for failing to remove the damaged rope from operation, even though daily inspections indicated it needed replacing, and \$4,900 for failing to ensure that a deficiency noted on the annual inspection was checked on a monthly basis. OSHA area director William Cochran said: "This employer wilfully disregarded worker safety and allowed the crane to operate even though daily crane inspections indicated the cable needed replacement and replacement cable was available on-site, it is fortunate that no one was killed or seriously injured in this incident."



Mountain States Contractors fined for wilful and serious safety violations

Who trained him then?



Spotted in Steenbergen, the Netherlands, a man who has attached a lateral wooden platform extension to an aerial lift in order to gain extra outreach for installing cladding panels. Not only is the platform lacking any form of safety but the machine, an UpRight SL26 is also not designed to take the side loadings inflicted.