

# Peter Oram passes on

Peter Oram, a leading light within the HSE and the crane industry died on Sunday June 25th after struggling with cancer for some time.

No matter what people thought of Peter Oram's various positions on aspects of crane safety they all respected him. Most liked him, even those who did not like some of his decisions. He had a great sense of humour and sound judgement, something that helped implement safety rules, some of which were not always popular at the time.

Those who knew him well say that he had a way of making the meetings he chaired, or attended, fun. He had a knack for resolving tricky regulatory issues on the wider European stage and for pushing through a pragmatic approach against all the odds.

His passing is a loss to the industry, his funeral was held on Tuesday July 4th at 14:00, at the Longcroft Christian Fellowship, on Merseyside and was followed by a short committal at the Landican Crematorium.

His youngest daughter Alison, speaking for the family, said "As a family we are very aware of how Peter valued the people he met through his work and the friendships that developed". With that in mind his funeral was open to anyone who was able to make it.

## Peter Oram 1937 – 2006

Peter Oram was born in London in 1937, and was educated at Dartford County Technical School for Boys; he began his career in 1954 as an apprentice with the Ministry of Supply's Aeronautical Inspection Directorate (AID) laboratories in Harefield, Middlesex. After completing his apprenticeship in 1959, with Higher National Certificates in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering, he started work as an AID inspector monitoring the production of military aircraft.

He spent a year at the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough, where he worked on the provision of test facilities for Concord, but returned to AID, remaining there until 1967, when he moved to the Factory Inspectorate which later became known as the Health and Safety Executive.

He soon began to specialise in cranes, and soon tuned in to industry practice and the risks that the sector faces. He became well known throughout the crane industry, even

today you will be hard pressed to find a person in the UK or International crane industry that do not either know him well or at least know his name.

In the 1970's he was appointed as chairman of the British Standards Committee for cranes. In this position he took on leadership of the development of BS7121, the British Standards for the Safe Use of Cranes, and revolutionised the industry's approach to safety.

Oram's contribution to the industry continued beyond BS7121, he worked on LOLER and standards such as BS466. He remained as chairman of the British Standards Committee for cranes for the rest of his life.

His growing influence in the crane world was reflected in his appointment as chairman of the European Crane Standards Committee CEN TC 147, and then as a key participant in the International Standards Committee for Cranes, ISO TC 96.

After leaving his position at the HSE in 1994, Oram went on to work as an independent consultant and



Peter Oram accepts his lifetime achievement award from Vertikal's Tim Whiteman in 2002

expert witness, both in the UK and internationally. In 2002 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award, for his promotion of the importance of safety in the crane industry.

He was always very helpful and approachable. Whenever we needed some background, expertise or input at the Vertikal Press on a tricky article, Peter would be happy to listen and advise and provide as much help as we needed.

He was, what is becoming increasingly unusual within the regulatory world, or even, to an extent the industry as a whole, a "Character"... a big character.

**The crane world is a poorer place without him.**



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