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Letters



A Message

Leigh thanks for the articles over the years and the passion you show for the industry. Just a line to say that after many days considering the options, I have finally decided to take a career path change and move away from 'The crane game' to protect my sanity as after over 30 years in the industry I feel we are no further forward now than we were back then.

Yes we have planned lifts and new regulations but there are still too many out there who think that badgering and pressurising operators and A/Ps on site gets the results that were never discussed at the planning stage, and then they dispute the invoices and refuse to pay for services rendered. So it is time to go before it claims my soul. I plan on keeping my finger on the pulse by visiting Vertikal regularly and staying in touch with former colleagues however will have no more to do with the idiots and inexperienced who want the same monies as I earn but could not execute a safe lifting operation if it was left to them alone.

Best wishes for the future and you never know I might just make it to Haydock next year,
regards

We felt that it was probably better that this highly experienced crane and lifting specialist who is clearly disillusioned with the crane rental industry and the behaviour of those two-faced contractors - preaching safety and the gate and then pushing to cut corners on the job - to leave his name off this letter. After all while he clearly wants nothing more to do with the industry he does not need to burn any bridges and his words make a very important point.

Inertia Reel lanyard or fixed?

Hello, my name is xxxxx. I am a truck driver for a crane and aerial rental company in xxxxx ,xxxxx. I deliver aerial lifts all day ranging in size from little scissor lifts to the new Genie 180 that we just got in our yard yesterday. My company has implemented a new policy with our fall protection.

We used to have retractable lanyards that were required, they took those away and gave us a 4ft. lanyard and are telling us that it needs to be hooked to our side hip rings on our harness. I am curious what you think about this?

Thank you,

We chose to edit this communication, received from a North American reader, to remove most of the clues as while he did not request it, we were concerned that given his name and the other details he would be easily identifiable and might have been subject to censure for contacting us. We did think however that this was an interesting point that other readers might wish to comment on.

The following letter was received in response to the publication of an exchange of letters between Paul Adorian and Judith Hackitt in last month's Cranes & Access regarding the approval of cranes for lifting people as a form of entertainment.

Mr Mark Darwin,

Please find enclosed a cutting from today's paper.

When I was 'asked' to have man baskets on the demo crane I always requested the show organisers signed a letter to me to state that the basket was fitted and that they accepted the outcome of any accidents. If the basket was filled with persons straight from the beer tent, I would lift them up and then stop the engine. Getting out of the cab and shaking my head, I would look at the engine and then put on the work gloves, climb over the winch rope and lift and pull the hoist rope a few times. The people in the basket always became more respectful at that point, and when lowered to the ground thanked me very much for their safety.

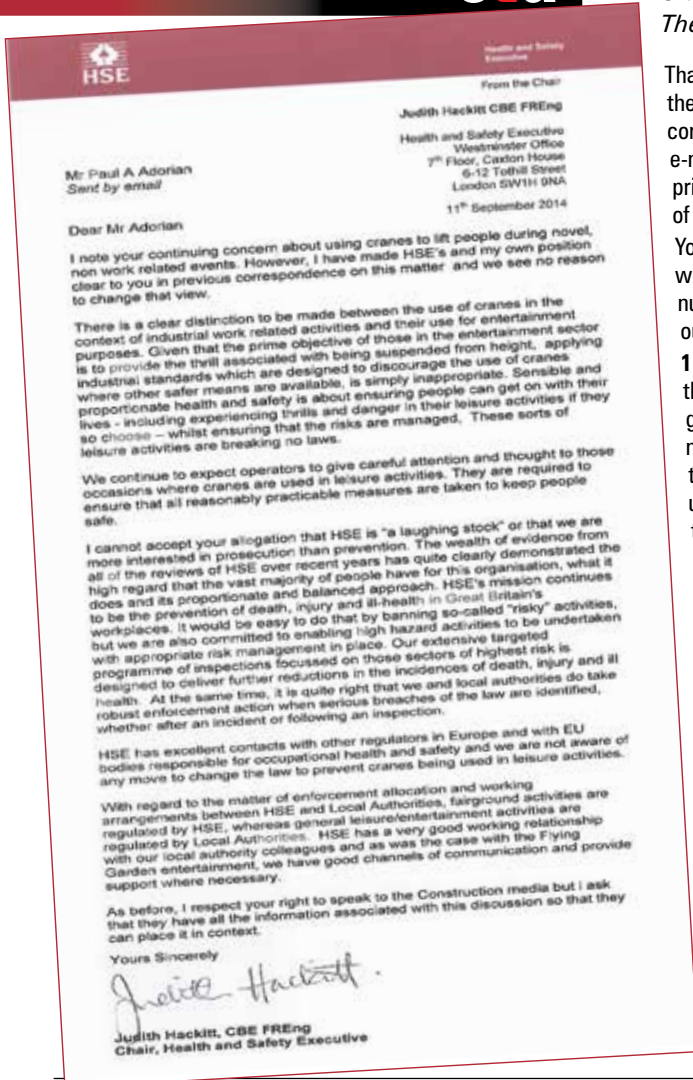
I hope that this cutting will be of interest to Mr Paul Adorian, whose letter you published in this months Crane & Access.

Question: What happens to the crane when the person at the table asks for the salt and pepper, does this effect the load chart?

Many thanks
Yours Sincerely
Fred Pole
Darlington



The following letters continue the dialogue from the September issue of *Cranes & Access* between Paul Adorian and Judith Hackett of the HSE. They both speak for themselves on this issue.



Thank you for your letter of the 11th September which, unfortunately, arrived a day after the latest issue of *Cranes & Access* was delivered so, whilst they have printed the earlier correspondence of this particular series of letters and e-mails, your response and this e-mail will not be included but I will forward both immediately in the hope that they will be printed in the next issue to ensure that readers have the opportunity to be fully informed of your latest response.

Your letter does little more than repeat previous comments and I utterly fail to understand why you refuse to actually address, in your letters, the basic facts I have put to you on a number of occasions. To simplify the problem which causes me the most concern, I set out below the two points which you seem unwilling to face up to.

1. Despite the evidence I have provided you do not seem willing to grasp the fact that there have already been fatal accidents and accidents causing bodily injury. By the grace of God, the most recent accident at BAUMA in Germany could have caused numerous deaths but for sheer luck in that a building caught the falling crane and the thirteen passengers were suspended in a pergola by the hook. Had that crane had an uninterrupted fall to the ground there would almost certainly have been deaths both in the pergola and on the ground below. Before you tell me that this accident occurred in Germany, outside of your jurisdiction, it does serve to illustrate the dangers that exist and will continue to exist until such time as the HSE takes this matter seriously.

2. I have made the point on more than one occasion that the persons charged with the responsibility for health and safety within Local Authorities are not all equipped to deal with the potential risks where the use of mobile cranes for joy-riding is concerned. We both know that because the person with those responsibilities in the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea told me so, in as many words, during a telephone conversation we had regarding the Hanging Garden at The Chelsea Flower Show.

I think I have made my point demonstrably clear in my correspondence with you and I am saddened by the fact that you do not appear to be hearing, or don't want to hear. "There are none so deaf as those who do not want to hear", which I feel is an apt quotation to describe your position as Head of the HSE.

It seems that I will have to take this up at a higher level of Government to try and ensure that common sense will prevail and to use your own words to ensure that the HSE really does "learn from the past".

Yours faithfully,
Paul Adorian

Robert Böcker 1953 - 2014

Robert Böcker, the chief executive of the aluminium crane, lift and hoist manufacturer Böcker, died suddenly on Saturday September 13th, following a heart attack, he was 60.

The news came as a great shock not only to his family and the company, but also for the town of Werne, when the business is one of the major employers and where Böcker was a major influence for some time, participating in a large number of charities and associations. The local football team Eintracht Werne held a minute's silence before kick-off on Sunday after his death, while the fire department and several other establishments set their flags at half-mast to mark the passing of a man that generated a great deal of respect.

Böcker began as an engineering apprentice before moving on to obtain a business degree and gain a range of practical experience before eventually taking over the business that his father, Albert - a master blacksmith - had founded

in 1958 as a small metalwork and machining operation. He was instrumental in building it up into a significant international manufacturer, with over 400 employees.

At his 60th birthday last December, he announced that the company would remain in family hands for the foreseeable future and that his son Alexander would take over from him at the start of 2016, when he planned to retire in order to devote more time to his great passion for hunting.

He is survived by his two children, Alexander, 31, and Diana, 27, his mother Mary and his partner Gabriele Ledendecker. His wife Ulrike passed away in 2009. Over 1,000 people attended the funeral as local people and employees all paid their respects.



Robert Böcker
1953-2014

With his passing the company, the local community and the industry has lost a big man, a larger than life character. He will be missed by all those who knew him.

