

# A worthwhile day from any angle

## New heights are being achieved in lifting gear, powered access and scaffolding.

Here's a few of those raising their game in the SED 2006 Cranes & Access Village. All eyes will be on the Hitachi Sumitomo SCX 800 2HD from NRC Cranes, never seen before in the UK. Lorry loaders up to 180 ton-metre from Ernest Doe. Tower cranes from Vanson and Dunham. Battery powered booms from Manitou. And the doorway-slim Oktopus MC-285C mini. Look out for Safestand mast climbing systems, Versalift's

extended outreach system and SAFI work platforms from INSA Scaffolding.

Components, tackle, remote controls and support gear are in the all-new Pavilion. Plus there's £100 and a trophy to be won every day in the Hiab/Vertikal Challenge.

**Whichever way you view it, here at SED 2006 things are looking up.**

**SED 2006 - 16, 17 & 18 MAY**

Rockingham Performance Park, Mitchell Road, Corby, Northants. NN17 5AF

We will run courtesy coaches from Kettering Mainline Railway Station to and from the site. Look out for the yellow double decker buses. See [www.sed.co.uk](http://www.sed.co.uk) and click on 'Useful Information' for the bus timetable.

IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY, NO ADMITTANCE TO CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS. THOSE OVER 12 YEARS AND UNDER 16 YEARS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. ENTRY TO THE SHOW IS BY REGISTRATION AND FREE OF CHARGE. CAR PARKING £5.00 PER CAR.

**Register at [www.sed.co.uk](http://www.sed.co.uk) or call 0870 429 4374**



# cheap diesel in the UK?

The UK budget has come and gone and both the crane and access industries can be proud that their representative bodies have proved their worth and won what looked at times to be a hopeless cause. The UK treasury showed that it is truly prepared to listen to arguments and when justified change its view. The new rules maintain the exemption for cranes and specifically include vehicle mounted aerial lifts over 3.5 tonnes Gross Weight, along with concrete pumps. Any vehicle mounted lift under 3.5 tonnes will no longer be permitted to use red diesel, regardless of its construction or application.

The changes to the rules will come into force in April 2007, following the publication of a Treasury Order and a Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment report, which is likely to include further input from industry associations. In the meantime the debate and subsequent verdict, has highlighted the fact that there has been some confusion when it comes to van mounted lifts that is not related to the planned rule changes. The following is an overview of the current situation for vehicle mounted lifts and the rules which will apply from April 2007:

The new arrangements will certainly clear up an anomaly that has led to some confusion regarding van mounted lifts. The Revenue and Customs are clear that van mounted aerial lifts are primarily a transport vehicle with a lift added as an accessory and as such cannot be classified as a crane and must therefore use tax paid white diesel. There is currently a special dispensation for those van mounts that are dedicated solely to street lighting duties, allowing them to

use red diesel. This dispensation will expire in April 2007.

Chassis mounted lifts under 3.5 tonnes are currently considered to fall into the truck mounted category and thus classified as a crane and therefore entitled to use red diesel. From April 2007 however, they will clearly fall into the vehicle mounted lifts under 3.5 tonnes category and will only be able to use white diesel.

The UK revenue and customs inspectors have been calling on manufacturers and owners of van mounted lifts in recent weeks. A number of owners have been found using red diesel in the belief that as vehicle mounted lifts they are legally entitled to do so. The rules though state that even if they are dedicated strictly to aerial lift work, unless they are used solely on street lighting, they are not exempted and are not entitled to use red diesel.

The confusion arises from the wording of the verdict given down by the high court in the February 2000 case brought by Nationwide and PTP. The verdict gave most vehicle mounted lifts the right to

use cheap rebated diesel. "Truck mounted boom type platforms with lifting eyes" was the exact wording. Then in August 2000 a clarification probably contributed to any misunderstandings there might have been. It permitted van mounted platforms used "solely for the purpose of installing and repairing street-lighting" to be categorised as road construction vehicles and thus entitled to use red diesel. As if this was not enough, the situation has been compounded by some van mounted manufacturers and rental companies informing their customers that they were entitled to use red diesel in their van mounted platforms.

Those companies that have been caught doing so face fines of £250, 100% reclamation of back tax and possible confiscation of the vehicle. Whether the Revenue will take such a harsh stance, given the honest confusion that seems to exist, time will tell.

#### Sources for further information:

 IPAF web site  
[www.ipaf.org/news19.htm](http://www.ipaf.org/news19.htm)  
CPA web site  
[www.cpa.uk.net](http://www.cpa.uk.net)

Category of vehicle	Situation Today	From April 2007
Truck mounted aerial lifts up to 3.5 tonnes:	Classified as a crane use red diesel	Must use white diesel
Truck mounted aerial lifts over 3.5 tonnes:	Classified as a crane use red diesel	Classified as a crane use red diesel
Van mounted aerial lifts - General use:	Road vehicle, must use white diesel	Must use white diesel
Van mounted aerial lifts dedicated to street lighting	Special dispensation, use red Diesel	Must use white diesel
Van mounted aerial lifts over 3.5 tonnes *	Must use white diesel	Classified as a crane use red diesel

\*May qualify for alternative licence depending on application

**C&A**  
GUIDE TO

Who may  
use Red  
Diesel



Van mounts under 3.5t

Van mounts solely for street lighting  
TODAY ✓ AFTER 04/07 ✗  
All other van mounts  
TODAY ✗ AFTER 04/07 ✗



Truck mount under 3.5t

TODAY ✓ AFTER 04/07 ✗



Truck mounts over 3.5t

TODAY ✓ AFTER 04/07 ✓



All Cranes

TODAY ✓ AFTER 04/07 ✓