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Stability and leg deployment

The ALLMI Technical Standards Committee has updated its guidance on stabiliser legs sometimes lifting clear of the ground during lorry loader operation (on the non-lifting side). The committee chairman and ALLMI technical manager Keith Silvester said: "ALLMI initially produced guidance on this subject several years ago, following queries from sites, but this has recently been revised by our Technical Standards Committee so that it now contains references to the latest version of BS EN12999. The guidance explains the process of stability testing that the lorry loader will have been subjected to, and it also differentiates between the structure of a lorry loader and a mobile crane, for which a lack of understanding can sometimes add to the confusion among those working on site.

In conjunction with the launch of this revised guidance, ALLMI has also reminded members of its 'Information for Sites' document. This provides guidance for sites on how to identify whether stabiliser legs are correctly deployed, and so ties in well with the recent update from the Technical Standards Committee. It also includes an explanation of the types of lorry loader documentation which sites should reasonably expect to see.

"The aim of both of these guidance documents is to assist in educating all parts of the industry, thereby facilitating a consistent and informed approach on lorry loader related matters and ensuring conformity with legislation and good practice," added Silvester.

To obtain copies of these documents, see the ALLMI contact details below.

Audit team expansion

Wayne Clarke of Cheshire Training Solutions and Kevin Bennison of SWL Training have joined ALLMI's instructor auditing team. ALLMI's team of auditors plays a vital role in the maintenance and development of training standards throughout the UK and Ireland, monitoring the delivery of operator courses to ensure that scheme requirements are upheld.

Chief executive Tom Wakefield said: "ALLMI instructors are regularly audited on an unannounced basis. With this practice forming such a crucial part of the accreditation system, auditors not only need to be experienced ALLMI instructors with a significant degree of industry knowledge, but also have to undergo a detailed Auditor Development Programme before being approved for the process.

With our instructor base growing significantly year on year, it is important that we continually strengthen in terms of auditing resource and so we are delighted to welcome Wayne and Kevin onto the team."



Wayne Clarke



Kevin Bennison



New Product Familiarisation guidance

ALLMI has released its new guidance on Product Familiarisation following an industry-wide consultation process which took place throughout 2016. Developed in conjunction with both the ALLMI Operators' Forum Executive Committee and the ALLMI Technical Standards Committee, the guidance contains a template form to be used by those carrying out product familiarisation, as well as a supporting document explaining each of the areas to be covered during the process.

Technical manager, Keith Silvester said: "There is a clear legal duty on the part of the employer and the employee for lorry loaders to be operated safely, and an important aspect of ensuring this is for the operator to be fully conversant with the lorry loader being used. Therefore, the operator must not only undergo the appropriate basic training, but also receive machine familiarisation at the point of handover. It is essential that the operator is familiarised with any features that are specific to that particular type of lorry loader, because with manufacturers continually improving their designs, experience of using one make/model of crane does not mean that an operator will be conversant with any other."

ALLMI chief executive Tom Wakefield, added "All parties need to understand the importance of product familiarisation and the significant problems that can occur when it does not take place, or when it is not carried out to the correct standard. The importance of documenting the process should also be fully appreciated, and this includes situations where a customer declines the offer of familiarisation, in which case their response should be appropriately recorded and signed off."

The following are just some of the areas covered by ALLMI's documentation:

- Rated capacity load charts
- Safety systems
- Air suspension
- Crane & attachment functions
- Control levers/remote controls
- Operator checks & maintenance
- Un-stowing/stowing functions
- Documentation
- Stabiliser deployment/stowing

ALLMI's product familiarisation guidance is freely available to all interested parties - readers are encouraged to contact the association to obtain a copy of this documentation, or to request assistance in relation to this important topic.