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Finance scheme is available only through Merlo Finance in the UK for Construction Machines. Scheme runs on orders placed from 01/08/2016 for deliveries up to 31/12/2016. All applicants must be 18 or over, and credit is for business users only, subject to approval of Merlo UK Ltd & Merlo Finance who can terminate the campaign at any time without prior announcement. Cannot be combined with any other campaign. 0% financing is available for funding over 12 months after deduction of a 10% + vat deposit. Other interest rates are applicable for longer periods. Merlo Finance is a trading style of De Lage Landen Leasing Limited.



Removal of annual MOT exemptions

The Department for Transport is proposing to remove certain vehicles from the list of exemptions from the annual Heavy Goods Vehicle MOT test. New legislation is planned to be released this month and if it is enacted, will come into force in May 2018. The vehicles affected will include mobile cranes on a lorry/commercial truck-based chassis, mobile concrete pumps, vacuum excavators and truck mounted aerial work platforms. This will effectively mean that these vehicles will be subject to the annual HGV MOT test from the proposed date of May 2018.

However, mobile cranes on bespoke chassis, which make up the majority of the UK fleet, will remain exempt from the annual MOT test, as they come under the STGO (Special Types General Order) regulations. To assist its members demonstrate the roadworthiness of their mobile cranes, the CPA, with the approval of the Department for Transport, is drawing up a voluntary roadworthiness inspection and testing scheme, based on the current HGV MOT. The aim is provide CPA members with a robust scheme, having the required degree of independence, to demonstrate to both customers and the public the effectiveness of their maintenance regimes. Further information will be released by the CPA as soon as it is available.

Additional guidance on mobile crane maintenance is also available via the CPA website. The CPA Best Practice Guide on Maintenance, Inspection and Through Examination of Mobile Cranes can be downloaded free of charge at www.cpa.uk.net/crane-interest-group-publications-guidance



CPA Plant Conference 2017

The CPA's Annual Plant Conference will take place on Tuesday 31st October and be held for the first time at an impressive new venue, the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre in Fillongley near Coventry. The conference will cover many key issues affecting the construction equipment and rental sectors. As in previous years, the event will have a display area to showcase the latest products and services.

Attendance is open to anyone who has an interest in, or influence over, supplying or procuring construction equipment and interested parties will soon be able to register interest online via the CPA website.



Research on telehandlers overturning

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has released a report entitled Exploring the Human and Physical Factors Associated with Telescopic Handler Overturning or RR1085 for short. The research was undertaken to identify human factor issues that may contribute to overturning incidents and to identify any operator knowledge gaps that may increase the probability of overturning.

The report noted that a combination of machine instability and human factors were important aspects of overturning incidents. A telehandler is more likely to overturn when the boom is raised or

extended whilst on soft or uneven ground. This causes lateral (side to side) instability and not longitudinal (front to back) instability. Some operators were not aware of the factors that cause lateral instability, and weaknesses in site management and supervision further increase the risk of overturning. The report concluded that the installation of lateral instability warning devices could help reduce overturns by warning operators before a critical threshold is reached.

The Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group, chaired by the CPA, has already produced comprehensive guidance on safety with telescopic handlers, including the handling of suspended loads and operator training requirements. The work undertaken by the group is noted in the HSE's research report and the group both welcomes the report and is satisfied following analysis of RR1085, that the factors noted around overturning issues are already contained with their guidance. The RR1085 report and the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group guidance documents can be downloaded free of charge from www.hse.gov.uk and www.cpa.uk.net respectively.



Stars of the Future

The CPA hosts its annual awards scheme Stars of the Future in conjunction with the Plantworx exhibition on Tuesday 6th June in Hangar-42 Events Centre adjacent to the showground. The scheme is run in conjunction with all UK colleges offering plant mechanic apprentice training and is supported by CITB.

The awards are for plant mechanic apprentices who have been assessed throughout the academic year on their work in college and their work environment. This year's awards are being held in association with sponsor A-Plant which has more than 150 apprentices.

