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## New guidance on Unintended Movement

The UK's Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group has released a new safety publication entitled 'Reducing Unintended Movement of Plant - Managing Exposure to Consequential Risks.'

Unintended movement occurs when inadvertent operation of a control such as a switch, lever or pedal occurs, causing unintended machine movement which can potentially cause serious injuries and fatalities. The new publication, which has been developed in conjunction with the Health & Safety Executive, provides guidance on a range of control measures to help prevent this from happening.

The guidance - developed over the past two years, with a number of meetings held to discuss the issue - identifies the causes and provides guidance on suitable control measures. The group identified that in principle, inadvertent operation occurs through:

- a) The operator unknowingly activating a control lever
- b) The operator intentionally activating a control lever but a different action occurs to what they
- c) The operator (or other) bypassing or defeating a safety system

The group additionally recognised that mechanical malfunctions have the potential to cause inadvertent or partial operation but agreed that this subject area would not form part of the guidance being a maintenance issue. In identifying and documenting actions to help manage the exposure to the consequential risks of unintended movement, the following topics are covered within the guidance:

- · Planning of the task and the selection of equipment
- Attributes of personnel, supervision and training requirements
- Control of the working zones and those within the area



- Communication
- Types of operating controls and means of isolation
- · Selection and fitting of additional control measures, including clothing specifications
- Checks, inspections and maintenance requirements

A large number of case studies of actual incidents have been documented in the guidance and included is an analysis of the causes, consequences and outcomes of each, for which in many cases there are a number of causal factors. This emphasises how incidents have occurred and how they could have been prevented. Manufacturers were represented at the meetings of the working group with an intention that they would subsequently design out potential inadvertent operation and risks during the development of new machines. The publication encompasses all equipment types including those operated by remote control, with the exception of aerial work platforms, where a separate publication has already been produced.

CPA director Kevin Minton said: "If construction equipment moves unexpectedly, then anyone close to it is at risk of being seriously injured or killed. This new publication gives guidance on a range of control measures to prevent this happening. Drivers, people working nearby, supervisors and contractors all have a part to play. We urge all involved with the operation of machinery to implement the recommendations in order to

maintain safe activities."

The publication is available to download free of charge from the CPA website www.cpa. uk.net/sfpsgpublications. The Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group is also planning a condensed version summarising and highlighting the salient points from the main document for easy reference.

Clothing is a major factor in unintended movement.



## New training and safety manager

The CPA has appointed Rob Squires as training and safety manager. He was previously training manager of the National **Demolition Training Group, and has also** worked in the armed forces and for the CITB where he oversaw the staffing and delivery mechanisms for all constructionbased card schemes including CSCS, CISRS and particularly CPCS.

His key responsibilities include supporting the CPA Special Interest Groups and Training on Plant in Construction Group. He will work closely with the CITB and other organisations to ensure that CPA members' training requirements are met, relevant and are effectively delivered. He will also ensure that grant aid continues to be available and will seek new funding opportunities from the CITB and other funding bodies.

CPA director Kevin Minton said: "Rob's background in training delivery and management will be of great benefit to the association. With the advent of the CSCSbadged card initiative which is affecting many of the CPA members, his knowledge of card scheme requirements and contacts with CITB and CSCS will allow us to thoroughly support the membership on these issues."

## Correction

In last month's edition of Cranes & Access, it was stated that mobile cranes would be included under the London's Emission Surcharge scheme coming into effect on 23rd October. This was incorrect: mobile cranes are exempt from charges under this scheme. We apologise if this mistake has caused any confusion. Please contact David Smith at the CPA if you require clarification or any further information.



