

cranes & access

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July 2019 Vol.21 issue 5

Low level
access

Pick &
carry
cranes

Annual
source
guide

Used equipment



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On the cover:

The 14ft PS-1430 Hy-Brid Lifts slab scissor lift - seen working on a typical M&E installation - has a 6.1 metre working height, 304kg capacity and 760mm deck extension. Overall weight is 780kg.



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Mammoet to acquire ALE? 26ft Micro scissor from MEC, A faster/safer way to install turbine blades? New 54t Manitex, UpRight scissor lifts return, New Raimondi luffer, New Jekko SPX532, New Hiab drywall crane, Dingli and Platform Basket partnership, Kalmar electric reachstacker, Europe's first Jaso J780PA.64, MEC Leak Containment System, JCB invests in Brazil and financials round-up...



Pick & carry cranes 17

We look at the 'Franna' articulated pick & carry type of crane so popular in Australia as well as rounding up recently launched new products. We also ask if the cheap and cheerful tractor based cranes so popular in India are under threat from more cost effective and possibly safer telehandlers?



Low level access and mast booms 27

The availability and use of low level and industrial type aerial work platforms has grown dramatically in recent years. We take a look at products that are particularly good for industrial cleaning and maintenance work ranging from the basic push around battery powered scissor lifts to the larger mast booms.



Product guide 37

The C&A annual product source and dealer guide lists all the crane, access, telehandler and ancillary equipment currently manufactured and available internationally, as well as contact details of distributors in the UK and Ireland.



Used equipment 49

With the growth of online trading and modern communications, it has never been easier to search for secondhand examples of specific cranes, aerial work platforms or telehandlers. Mark Darwin takes a brief look at the state of the market and the emerging trends.



Diabetes and mental health 58

Kate Walker, owner of Diabetes and You, looks at the association between diabetes and depression which has been well known for at least three decades.



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In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access scheduled for mid-September will include the annual Top 30 UK/Irish rental company guide, along with features on Spider and mini crawler cranes and Electric and hybrid platforms. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

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Life is a compromise

Unless you are extraordinarily wealthy life is always a compromise. I am sure most of us would change a few things if money were no object such as the house, the car, a holiday home or two etc. However in the real world we have to make do with what we have and can afford.

In the UK a consumer magazine called Which compares products such as washing machines, TVs, hairdryers and cars etc... and recommends the 'Best Buy'. The recommendation is rarely the very best performing

product because it is usually too expensive and so tends to be the top 'value for money' item - not necessarily the absolute best, but something that does the job well at a good price point.

The same applies to business - and particularly the construction market - where keeping costs down sometimes seems more important than doing the job right - even at the cost of safety. You only have to look at the way some companies carry out lifting and work at height operations and try to get by without organising the right equipment...

Excavators, backhoe loaders and other earthmoving machines are frequently used to lift loads even though they are primarily designed for moving earth and digging trenches. They are clearly a compromise solution - less safe and not as efficient.

This month we received a copy of a Voluntary Code of Practice published by the Off-highway Plant and Equipment Research Centre, which aims to address the issue of poor communications between excavator operators and banksmen when lifting loads, by providing a set of unequivocal - and in many cases long established - hand signals.

This is eminently sensible and long overdue and hopefully it will be adopted internationally to create a common set of signals for when excavators are used as cranes, making the process as safe as possible.

But should we be encouraging the use of excavators for lifting in the first place?

When planning any lifting operation, you should first consider what is the most appropriate machine, taking into account the type of lift and the duration of the task. Would the excavator be chosen if time and money were no object?

Excavators are mostly used for carrying out lifts relating to groundworks, such as installing drainage and sewer pipes etc... so it does make some sense given they are already on site and avoids the cost, time and hassle of renting in a crane, even though it might be safer and more efficient.

If all precautions and procedures are taken into account when planning and carrying out lifting operations with excavators and the work is done safely and in accordance with your legal duties, then why not? Particularly if the issue of poor communication between the operator and banksman can be improved.

Mark Darwin

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