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CPA Stars of the Future 2020 nominations open

The CPA Stars of the Future awards scheme is being expanded for 2020 with awards for Mechanics, Technicians, Lifting Technicians, Operators and Hire Controllers.



Nominations are invited from rental companies, manufacturers, contractors and others with the closing date of Thursday 9th April. Nomination forms are available at www.cpa.uk.net and winners will be announced at the Stars of the Future awards ceremony, held at



The 2019 national winners

the Heart of England Conference Centre, Fillongley near Coventry on Wednesday 10th June.

Stars of the Future is a UK awards scheme for apprentices and trainees in the construction equipment rental industry. It is being extended to five categories with national and

regional awards for Mechanics (Level 2), Plant Technicians (Level 3), Lifting Technicians, Operators and Hire Controllers, reflecting the key occupations in the industry and the corresponding apprenticeships.

Full details can be found at www.cpa.uk.net

Technical Information Notice (CIG TIN 107)



The Crane Interest Group has issued a Technical Information Notice (104) in order to clarify the definition of a 'hybrid' lifting operation and the potential issues arising from this type of lifting operation.

BS 7121-1:2016 identifies two sets of contractual arrangements for the provision of mobile cranes. In the first - Straight Crane Hire - the customer hires a crane and manages the lift themselves, in which case they - the employing organisation - are responsible for ensuring that a safe system of work is in place and that all lifting operations are carried out safely in accordance with current legislation and best practice. The crane owner needs to provide a competent operator and ensure the crane is properly maintained, inspected and thoroughly examined. Straight Crane Hire arrangements should be carried out using the CPA Model Conditions and the Supplementary Conditions applicable to Mobile and Crawler Cranes.

In the second arrangement - a Contract Lift - the customer employs a lifting contractor such as the crane company to carry out the lifting operation including planning, supervision and execution of the lifting operation. It should always be carried out using CPA Standard Terms and Conditions for Contract Lifting Services.

However there is a third arrangement in which a crane is hired to a customer, but the crane owner becomes involved with some aspects of planning the lift. This is known as a 'Hybrid' lift, but it is unclear who is responsible for ensuring that the planning of the lift - as set out in BS 7121 - is carried out. This could well result in incomplete planning and an ineffective safe system of work.

A further complication is where a crane with an operator is hired with additional personnel such as slinger/signallers. In this case these people could potentially be viewed as being in charge/control of the lifting operation.

From a commercial aspect this can compromise the crane owner if the crane has been hired under the CPA Model Conditions, as by becoming involved with planning the lift, the owner automatically takes on some of the responsibilities associated with a Contract Lift. If the lifting operation fails, the crane owner is likely to have difficulty in contractually recovering their costs for crane repair, etc. and may well face counter claims from the customer for not having planned the lift properly.

Past incidents of this nature have led to criminal prosecution of the crane owner by the HSE for being partially responsible for inadequate lift planning. They have also resulted in protracted and costly legal proceedings as the various parties and their insurers seek to recover costs.

Hybrid lifts - as described in Clause 5.7.2.3 of BS 7121-3:2017+A1:2019 - mean the crane owner takes on additional responsibilities, placing themselves at considerable reputational and financial risk should issues occur and should be avoided.

CIG TIN 107 can be downloaded from www.cpa.uk.net/crane-interest-group-publications-guidance



Changes to the Best Practice Guide - Maintenance, Inspection and Thorough Examination of Mobile Cranes (CIG 1001)

The Crane Interest Group guidance on the maintenance, inspection and thorough examination of mobile cranes - originally published in 2010 - was subject to a minor revision in November. Additions and revisions include:

- The specific inclusion of heavy lift cranes.
- A new section on the inspection of the chassis of roadgoing mobile cranes.
- New requirements for the identification and recording of safety critical components.
- New guidance on the need for thorough examination of mobile cranes after rigging on site.
- Additional information on the preparation of defined scopes of periodic thorough examination and thorough examination following installation.

Additional information has been included on ground assessment, medical fitness and protection against fumes along with an updated bibliography and references.

The updated guidance can be downloaded from www.cpa.uk.net/crane-interest-group-publications-guidance/

