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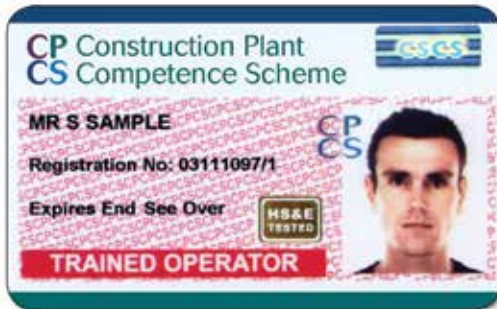
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CPA review of operator card schemes

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) has confirmed that the NOCN Group has been selected as the preferred bidder for its Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) card scheme. The sale is subject to due diligence and final negotiations, but if successful, NOCN will create an independent subsidiary for CPCS. A statement from the CITB on the proposal can be found at <https://www.citb.co.uk/news-events/uk/2018/citb-statement-on-cpcs-scheme>



The CPA was a founder member of the predecessor scheme, CTA, in 1986 which aimed to encourage health and safety training and set national standards to assist in raising safety standards for operators. It transitioned to CPCS in 2003 to align with CSCS card requirements. The CPA is reviewing the impact of the sale of CPCS



to an external organisation and believes it is time to review construction equipment operator card schemes to see how they function, how standards can be maintained and improved, and how

they will best benefit the sector's interests.

As a result, the CPA is seeking views about how card schemes are used in order to start a debate on what should be the important elements for a modern competence-based card scheme. The association is also ready to organise regional meetings to discuss factors identified by the review.

The questionnaire can be downloaded at <https://www.cpa.uk.net/cpasurveysandconsultations>



Growing theft trends

There is a growing trend of individuals trying to steal equipment through impersonation. In one method an individual arrives at site claiming to be from the equipment owner and attempts to remove it. If a customer receives an unscheduled visit from anyone claiming to be the owner's representative, they should immediately contact the owner to check if the visit is bona fide.

In another example an individual claiming to work for an existing customer, contacts the rental company to order more equipment. Any machines delivered are either broken up for spare parts or shipped abroad.

Individuals may also provide a different e-mail address from the company they allegedly work for, saying 'use my Gmail address because the company server is down at the moment.' To reduce the risk, it is advisable not to rely solely on the information given by the caller, or their e-mail and to call the customer's office to verify that the 'new' contact does indeed work for them.

Another disturbing trend is equipment ransom, where an individual contacts an equipment owner offering to return a stolen machine or give its location for a 'finder's fee'. They specify a place where the 'fee' can be left, after the owner has inspected the machine to verify that it is theirs.

If any equipment is stolen it should be reported to: Your local police station, your insurance broker and The Plant and Agriculture National Intelligence Unit (PANIU) on 020 7230 7290 or paniu@met.pnn.police.uk The CPA can also circulate details to its membership to aid recovery.

Crane Interest Group meeting

The Crane Interest Group meeting held in September, was the first to be chaired by Janet Entwistle, the chief executive of Ainscough Crane Hire. The group is the largest of CPA's special interest groups and has been heavily involved in establishing operational standards for crane hire in the UK and championing their safe operation through a range of safety publications.

CPA consultant Tim Watson provided an update on the removal of the MOT exemption for mobile cranes and the launch of the CPA's voluntary roadworthiness inspection scheme. Technical Information Note (TIN 106) at www.cpa.uk.net/news-events/new-crane-technical-information explains the voluntary scheme and how it matches the new HGV Inspection Manual published in May. A discussion on the timetable required to adopt and fully implement the scheme was provisionally set at 18 months, with a review on progress in six months.

Watson also discussed additions

and revisions to BS 7121: Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Cranes and confirmed that the long-awaited guidance on the use of mobile cranes alongside railways will be published by Network Rail by mid-October.

The discussions then moved on to Thorough Examination of lattice crane booms after rigging. The HSE clarified that practices must take account of real-world risks. Tim Watson and HSE will work together to clarify guidance on this. He also covered the revision of CPA guidance regarding contract lifting which is downloadable from www.cpa.uk.net/crane-interest-group-publications-guidance and

developments regarding the Greater London Authority (GLA) Low Emission Zone (LEZ).

CPA technical development manager Peter Brown updated attendees on the European Crane Operator's Licence which will be launched in November and the CPA's response to the use of red diesel in relation to the Government's Clean Air Strategy. He also called on employers to take up the new Lifting Technician Trailblazer Apprenticeship which was approved in November 2017.



Janet Entwistle