

# cranes & access

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November 2018 Vol.20 issue 8



Heavy  
lifting  
Spider lifts

Technology  
review

... Sarens' new 5,000 tonner...Hybeko Tunnel scissor...New Manitou/Gehl telehandlers...



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## On the cover:

A Genie S-45 TraX boom lift - specially adapted to meet polar conditions - being transported in an American military plane to assist with the construction and maintenance of the Summit Station polar research platform in Greenland for CH2M Hill Polar Services (CPS).



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Verticaaldagen review



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Heavy lift 17

We chart the development of the new generation of heavy lift cranes culminating in the launch of the Sarens 250,000 tonne/metre SGC-250 earlier this month and look at a few applications using big cranes and alternative methods of lifting.



Spider lifts 31

Over the past few years the spider lift has gradually become more of a mainstream access rental product as well as an essential tool for many specialist trades such as tree work and building maintenance. We take a look at the latest developments including the recent growth in the number of manufacturers offering 30 to 33 metre models.



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For the first time we focus solely on technology and take a closer look at the latest ideas and developments that will affect the future of cranes, aerial work platforms and telehandlers.

Access and lifting equipment for arborists 45



As well as a review of this year's APF show we take a look the use of access and lifting equipment for tree work, one of the most dangerous occupations in the world.

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This year's Verticaaldagen exhibition in the Netherlands, was the first to have no outdoor exhibition stands. We review the show which included several new product launches.



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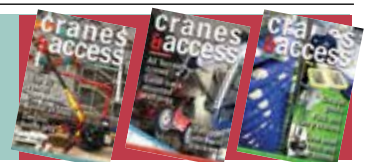
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## In the next C&A

The next issue of Cranes & Access scheduled for mid January, will feature Rough Terrain scissor lifts, Rough terrain cranes, the annual C&A Rental rate guide, a Look back at 2018 and Transport & rigging. If you have any contributions or suggestions or are interested in advertising in this issue, please contact our editorial or sales teams.

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## The law is an ass

'The law is an ass' is an expression that is thought to date back to the 1654 play 'Revenge for Honour' by English dramatist George Chapman. It was certainly popularised by the Charles Dickens character, Mr Bumble in Oliver Twist almost two hundred years later. Whatever the origin, it applies when the law contradicts common sense.

A recent case in point occurred in South Australia when a state coroner recommended that scissor lifts should not be used unless there is a dedicated person on the ground acting as a safety spotter.

The recommendation followed the inquest into a fatal 2014 incident in which a man was crushed between a scissor lift guardrail and the floor

above. A co-worker found him by chance - possible working alone issues? - but he and a colleague struggled to locate and operate the lift's emergency lowering controls as they attempted to save him.

Whilst making the important and obvious observation that all emergency lowering controls should be standardised, easy to find and operate, the coroner added that until that happens, all scissor lifts should only be used with a spotter on the ground to activate the emergency lowering mechanism - reminiscent of the early days of the automobile when a person had to walk in front waving a red flag. Such proposals could easily turn tradesmen towards scaffold towers or ladders which carry far higher risks.

The coroner makes a good point though - one that is perhaps clearer to someone outside of the industry - why not standardise emergency controls?

Whilst it is not feasible for them to all be exactly the same, it would certainly be possible to mandate that they be more prominent and easier to find and operate.

In 2008 IPAF issued a standard decal to highlight the emergency lowering control location, however the emergency descent systems differ widely in terms of where they are located and how they work. In Australia the EWPA issued a more comprehensive Safe Use Pack in 2012.

The incident also highlights a lack of training of those working on the ground alongside aerial lifts. Had they been aware of the controls might they have saved his life? Overhead crushing incidents in scissor lifts are rare, yet many manufacturers are already looking at secondary guarding systems using either ultrasonic or mechanical means to warn operators of overhead dangers.

Platform users may well know where the emergency descent control is and how to use it, however when an emergency occurs at height they are reliant on others to save them.

The law may be an ass but in this case it is at least highlighting the importance of training all staff in aerial lift rescue procedures - and perhaps standardising emergency controls.

Mark Darwin

*Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email, fax or phone stating if we may publish them or not: editor@vertikal.net*

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