

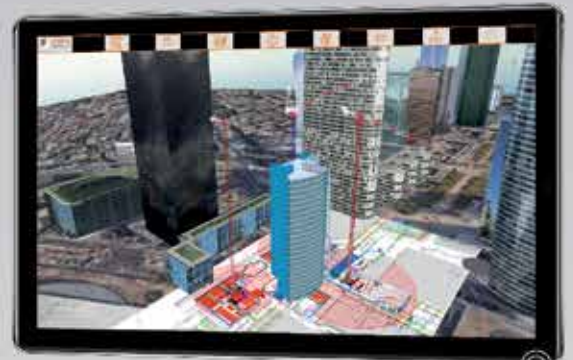


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# New Tower crane Safety Alert

Given the unprecedented situation with the coronavirus outbreak, the CPA Tower Crane Interest Group has issued advice relating to how tower cranes should be left out of service for lengthy periods of time. The new safety alert states that failure to take the crane out of service in line with manufacturer's instructions and failure to periodically inspect it whilst out of service could result in the crane being subject to very high wind loadings and consequential collapse of the jib or whole crane.



The safety alert sets out advice for leaving tower cranes out of service for long periods of time, namely:

- Ensure that the most up to date information for taking the crane out of service is obtained from the manufacturer or supplier for the specific make, model and configuration of crane. This should be checked against the information recorded in the project lift plan.

- From the information provided verify that the crane has been left in the correct out of service condition.
- With luffing cranes, it is strongly advised that the jib is parked at the maximum out of service radius possible - allowing for surrounding obstacles - rather than at the minimum out of service radius specified by the manufacturer.
- With saddle jib cranes, park the trolley at the manufacturers recommended position along the jib.
- Check the function of the free slew mechanism and report any fault to the owner or suppliers immediately. Leave the crane in free slew.
- Make note of the direction of the tower crane jib in relation to the wind direction. When the jib is in free slew it should follow any change in wind direction. If it remains in the same position when the wind direction changes, contact the crane



- supplier immediately.
- Check the integrity of fixings of any wind sail or advertising boards.
- Secure any intruder prevention barriers.
- Hand all keys to a designated project management representative and inform the crane owner of the key holder's contact details.
- Put in place procedures to ensure that the crane base is kept free from surface water that may accumulate.
- Put in place arrangements for the crane to be periodically inspected by a competent person. If the crane operator is not available, arrangements should be made with the crane supplier to undertake the inspections.

It is recommended that a thorough

examination regime for the crane is maintained whilst it remains out of service and it should be inspected by the supplier before re-entering service.

The HSE is aware of concerns relating to the statutory inspection time limits and has issued a statement on what should be taken into account where inspection difficulties occur due to the Pandemic.

The new tower crane safety alert can be downloaded from: [www.cpa.uk.net/news-events/tower-crane-safety-alert-coronavirus](http://www.cpa.uk.net/news-events/tower-crane-safety-alert-coronavirus) and the HSE statement at [www.cpa.uk.net/news-events/hseguidancelolercoronavirus](http://www.cpa.uk.net/news-events/hseguidancelolercoronavirus) practice for safe use of construction hoists. The revised guidance can be downloaded from [www.cpa.uk.net/construction-hoist-interest-group/](http://www.cpa.uk.net/construction-hoist-interest-group/)

## CPA Stars of the Future update

The CPA Stars of the Future 2020 awards programme will still go ahead however the awards ceremony scheduled for 10th June will no longer take place. The association is considering viable alternatives to announce the winners later this year.

The nomination deadline has also been extended to 31st May, with nominations welcomed from crane/equipment hire companies, manufacturers, contractors and others operating in the sector. Nomination forms are available at [www.cpa.uk.net/starsdownloads](http://www.cpa.uk.net/starsdownloads)

CPA chief executive Kevin Minton said: "We appreciate that it is crucial to maintain the recognition of outstanding apprentices in these challenging times, but are regrettably unable to hold the awards ceremony and are working on a suitable alternative."

To qualify for a CPA Stars of the Future award applicants need to be:

- Employed and working on one of the listed occupations at the appropriate level.
- On a recognised apprenticeship or a formal training programme of at least 12 months duration for the occupation.
- Working towards or hold a relevant NVQ, SVQ or other form of formal occupational competence-based qualification.
- On a formal training programme with an appropriate length of off the job training.

For specific occupations nominees need to be:

### Plant Mechanic Level 2

- On a recognised apprenticeship or formal training programme of at least 24 months.

### Lifting Technician

- On a recognised apprenticeship or formal training programme for the occupation of at least 18 months.
- Operating either a tower, crawler or mobile crane which forms a major element of the apprenticeship or training programme, supplemented by slinging and signalling activities.

### Plant Operative

- Operating at least two types of ride on construction equipment which forms a major element of the apprenticeship or training programme.



Lifting Technician of the Year 2019 - Niki Fitzgerald of Select Plant Hire