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RADIO COMMUNICATION FOR LIFTING OPERATIONS UPDATE

In partnership with the Construction Industry's Lifting Lead AP Group, the CPA's Tower Crane Interest Group has updated and launched a revised version of the Technical Information Note (TIN) 017 on Radio Communication for Lifting Operations.

This is to recognise the increasing importance of clear and reliable communication between the crane operator and the lifting team as signallers are sometimes out of sight of the operator and standard hand signals may be ineffective.

Therefore, to enable effective communication between the signaller and the crane operator, radios are used. However, the incorrect choice and use of radios can lead to problems such as loss of signal and thus communication which could interfere with safe lifting operations. Interference from radios on adjacent sites and misunderstanding between the crane operator and the signaller can lead to a host of issues meaning clear guidance is needed to ensure better and consistent communication.

With the level of new information, TIN 017 has increased from three to six pages, with new sections including one on Radio Frequencies, Channels and Coverage - containing both new and enhanced information with a focus on the new technologies of cellular and WiFi-type radios,



along with advantages of using digital type radios over analogue versions. The section also provides information on both licence free and licenced radios systems and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Another new section is on Recording of Voice Communications, with a recommendation that voice recordings should be taken and electronically stored which will help with both monitoring of radio usage, the training of users and if needed, in the investigation of incidents. A section on the Training and Monitoring of Users has also been added with a list of training items that should be included within a training course. This section also notes that not all slinger/signaller training courses offered by card schemes and others may include comprehensive training on radio usage and the protocols.

As with all CPA publications, TIN 017 can be downloaded free of charge from the publication pages at www.cpa.uk.net

TOWER CRANE INTEREST GROUP OPEN MEETING

The CPA's Tower Crane Interest Group held its Open Meeting in mid-September in London, chaired by Dave Holder, with both in person and virtual attendees.

Agenda items included discussions on recent safety issues, current and future TIN revisions and updates, an update from the HSE on lifting issues and an update on the progress and latest stages on the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) CAP 1096 crane notification publication.

The afternoon session began with an overview and subsequent findings in relation to a recent rope failure incident, which was followed by a presentation from Barrie Mordue of Tensology in relation to Magnetic Rope Testing and one by Frank Loch on behalf of Verope/Latch & Batchelor in relation to Special Wire Ropes.

The TCIG Open Meetings are held annually - usually in mid-September - and are open to anyone from the sector. Open Meetings are also held by the Crane Interest Group, Shoring Technology

Interest Group and the Construction Hoist Interest Group. More information on all of the CPA Special Interest Groups and Open Meetings can be viewed at www.cpa.uk.net



INDUSTRY LIFTING LEAD AP GROUP EVENT

CPA technical staff, along with the chairman of the Crane Interest Group, supported the successful Construction Industry Lifting Lead AP Group's open day event held in late September and hosted by CPA member, GGR.

The event included presentations from the HSE, GGR, Radius Group, Temporary Works Forum, NOCN/CPCS, Skanska and HS2 and Formulations Radios, along with a range of products and equipment for visitors to view and discuss.

CPA's crane technical consultant, Ian Simpson, gave a presentation on the latest standards and publications from the CPA, including the recently updated guide to maintaining roadworthiness on mobile cranes. This was followed up by Peter Gibbs of Ainscough Crane Hire who also chairs the Crane Interest Group, who provided examples and case studies and highlighted a number of incidences which occurred due to a lack of roadworthiness checks and maintenance regimes.

Concluding his talk, he emphasised how the industry needs to work together to reduce future incidents and maintain the professionalism of the sector. Craig Hook of Sir Robert McAlpine spoke on the current work being undertaken by the CPA's Construction Hoist Interest Group.

