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All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.



Telehandler platform fall costs £15,000

Henzell Enterprises of Morpeth, UK, has been fined £5,000 plus £10,147 costs following an incident with a fork mounted work platform, while erecting an agricultural building at a farm in Goxill, north Lincolnshire in October 2013.

The steel frame of the building had been erected and two men began installing the roof beams from a platform fitted to the forks of a telehandler. The platform broke free and dropped three metres or so to the ground seriously injuring the two men. An investigation quickly identified that the platform had not been secured to the forks correctly. The court was told that this type of platform was not suitable for the work and that the company had failed to plan the work, or provide appropriate equipment for working at height.

The fact that the telehandler was also being used to lift materials

which required the basket to be removed and replaced frequently was a contributing factor. HSE inspector David Stewart said: "It was the responsibility of the company to ensure that work at height was planned and carried out in a safe manner. The men suffered serious injuries as a result of the use of inappropriate work equipment which significantly increased the risk of an accident. I hope employers take note of this case and ensure that work at height - including the selection of appropriate equipment - is planned in detail and managed closely in order to prevent such accidents."

Poor mast boom lift costs £11,700

Base Build Services of Abbey Road, London was fined £10,000 plus costs of £1,647.92 after a 31 year-old man was injured when a mast boom fell from the forks of a telehandler at Abbey Trading Centre, Redditch in November 2014. The injuries included a broken leg and facial injuries.

The mast boom had been left in their area of work and needed to be moved to enable work to continue, so the site's compact telehandler was used to move it.

The investigation found that Base Build was aware in advance that the lift would need to be moved before work could continue, but no plan or instructions for its removal had been provided. In addition, the lead labourer was standing by the telescopic handler as the lift took place but failed to stop the lifting operation, even though it was clearly unsafe.

It was discovered that the telescopic handler was overloaded and that the JLG Toucan mast boom was not lifted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Base Build Services pleaded guilty to breaching CDM regulations.



Lack of training proved fatal

University College Cork pleaded guilty in November to two counts of breaching safety regulations. It was found not to have trained the operator of a boom lift or banksman Frank McGrath, 58, on how to safely move the machine between work locations and for failing to have written up a proper risk assessment. The failures contributed to McGrath's death following an accident in March 2013.

The court was told that the machine's operating manual indicated that blind spots for the operator were greatly reduced by driving the machine from a particular height, and yet it was being driven in the completely stowed position. CCTV footage a minute or two before the fatal incident, indicated that there was no clear communication between McGrath and the operator with no structured hand signals or radio communication.

Judge Donagh McDonagh recognised that the University had a good safety record and safety systems, but added: "The real reason for this incident is that the first articulated arm was not raised at least horizontal and parallel with the ground. That would have given the operator a view." The two men had been trained on how to operate the machine, but not on how to drive it between work areas. McGrath's was walking in front of the boom lift to ensure that no pedestrians or obstacles were in the way - he was watching out for the safety of others but not his own. The wheel of the boom lift caught his foot causing him to fall and the machine then ran over him.

The college was fined €80,000 plus €4,000 costs.



Who trained them then?

Spotted in Kortrijk, Belgium in November, a young man riding a pallet along with building materials suspended from the hook of a truck mounted aluminium crane.