

Association works for acceptable code of practice

More than of the thirty Association members have met officials from the Department of Labour to argue for changes to planned amendments to the Approved Code of Practice for Cranes.

Our industry wants more debate and clarification of two important sections of the regulations before they're published: the design life of cranes and clarification of rules governing the importation of used trucks with truck loader cranes fitted from Japan.

The Department of Labour's Mike Cosman chaired the 31 January meeting during which there was considerable (and robust) debate. Twenty six member-companies were represented (seventeen full and nine associates), a great example of an Association working for the wider interests of members.

The debate exposed deficiencies in inspection standards and a lack of suitably qualified inspectors. We and other industries have hammered away at this for a long time, arguing that the work requires experience as well as academic ability.

We left the meeting disappointed because no straw poll was taken to show which of the options put forward was favoured and whether there was a clear majority favouring retention of the present regulations or changes relating to crane usage or age.

The Department has gone now to write its recommendations for the minister and we have no option but to wait and see which ones the minister approves. But officials certainly know how the industry feels.



Code of Practice
for Cranes:
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Crane Project of the Year

We've received several new enquiries about members entering a project in the Crane Project of the Year award but would like to hear from as many companies as possible. This sort of event works best with a big field to choose from

We're looking for good, technical and challenging examples

of you and your staff achieving great things for your customers. Being recognised by the industry as good enough to win the project of the year would carry a lot of weight when convincing clients that you're worthy of their trust.

Contact the Association if you need specifics about entering.



From the President

The call is made from time to time, and I think it's appearing again in this issue, that members should make more use of their Association's ability to talk the issues through with politicians and public servants - to influence decisions before they're made.

Too often it seems, policy and regulation is driven through in the absence of any industry wisdom and experience. This is not confined to the crane industry but it's the one with which we're most concerned.

As members, you're in the front line and are most affected if a poor decision is handed down before it's been thoroughly tested by our own expert opinions. We've found much that's good in the consultation process offered by departments but we've also found them lacking on occasion. Ministers have a "no surprises" agreement with their departments. With your help, we can extend that courtesy as far as possible to include the whole industry - that's you, and your businesses.

R Carden, President

Newsletter of the

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Accident report

Marandoo - Hamersley (Australia)

Finger Partially Amputated Whilst Clearing a Jammed Rope on Mobile Crane

What Happened:

A mobile crane was used to move heavy equipment during a belt change on the night shift. About 15 minutes before the 0600 hours shift change, a chain on the auxiliary-hook jammed in the main-hook block, making the crane inoperable. The night-shift dogman, and the crane operator were present. About 5 minutes later the day-shift crane operator arrived, saw the jammed chain and assumed the role of rigger to free up the hoist ropes. The three conducted a take 5 and agreed to place the main-hook block (675kg) on the ground before attempting to release the jammed chain. This would ensure there was

no chance of the main-hook block dropping. The crane operator lowered the boom but stopped before the main-hook block reached the ground as he detected an instruction to do so. No other instruction was given to the Crane Operator. The dogman, realising the main-hook block was not on the ground, cautiously held the tail of the jammed chain away from the main-hook block. The rigger, called "Ready" and pulled the main-hoist rope, releasing the jammed chain, even though the main-hook block was not on the ground, as agreed. Once the chain was removed, the main-hook block dropped to the ground, and the rigger's hand

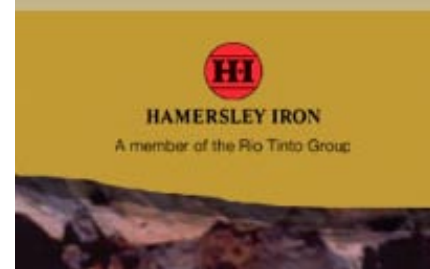
was pulled sharply downwards into a pinch point in the main-hook block. His right little finger was almost completely severed and ring finger lacerated. He wasn't wearing gloves, as mandated by the site rules. Two-thirds of the little finger was later amputated by a medical practitioner.

Causes:

People:

Inadequate communication between the rigger, dogman crane operator, during the boom lowering.

Removing the jammed chain from the main-hook block before it had reached the ground, against the agreed pre-



task assessment resulted in an uncontrolled movement of the main-hook block, leading to the injury. The injured person was not wearing the mandated PPE.

Process:

Inadequate procedures detailing the un-jamming of a main hoist rope.

Work Environment:

Incident occurred at dawn, and lighting was poor. Additional lighting on the crane/in the area may have let crane operator see location of the main-hook block better.

Name Change

The change in name and reprinting of stationery went very well. All changes connected with renaming and new branding are now in place.

This is a reminder to members that we no longer produce hand signal cards etc with member logos – the only ones we will produce will be with our logo and colours. As the hand signals are included in the Code of Practice for Cranes there is nothing to stop companies from producing their own cards.



Endorsement programme

We have a member of the council working on the proposed endorsement programme. If members have any suggestions on what they consider should be included please advise us. This is really something that should be developed from a broad range of suggestions because, if it takes off, it will affect the public image of many members. Endorsement programmes work in many industries and there's no reason why it won't in ours.

Items raised with officials

It seems we have the best bunch of officials in a long while. In other words, no members have alerted the Association to matters that need raising with officials. We are here to tackle bureaucracy on members' behalf. There are many government departments affecting the industry in big and subtle ways. Tell us if they're causing problems and we can help.

Busy day at the office

Of the estimated 125,000 tower cranes world-wide, perhaps a third are claimed to be operating in Dubai, frantically raising that city's skyline as it prepares for life after oil. See a drive-by film on Google video for an idea of the scale of building. Click to view video



Members

Cancelled members:

The following companies have had their membership terminated because they have not settled their accounts.

Full members:

- Jim's Crane Hire Ltd
- FX Crane Hire Ltd

There are no new members to report this month.

Cranes web site notice board: stay in touch, stay up-to-date

A feature of the members' section on the new Crane Association web site is a notice board where members can discuss matters affecting them.

It hasn't been used a lot yet but perhaps its launch in December and Christmas had something to do with that.

The notice board is designed to host discussions and announcements of matters that are vital to members.

The Association has assigned each member a password that just happens to be identical to the one they use to access the members' section of the site. Contributing to the discussions

and debates is simple. This notice board has been designed to avoid the complexities of many similar products, which are easy to use for computer science graduates but not many others.

The following guide will step you through the process of contributing and lurking (reading, not writing) the messages.

The notice board is the same as most other software: a challenge for the first few times and routine after that.

We intend to make to details of some announcements of relevance to members available only on this notice board.

Time to learn the try it out!

1 Contribute a new comment

Anyone with password access to the notice board can open the page and contribute to discussions. There's a link to the board on the home page of the web site.

To contribute, first, select the category by clicking the drop-down menu marked "category". This keeps your contribution relevant. Then, Add a subject-line. This is the point of your entry. Type in your text and restrict it to a punchy message rather than trying to write a full-blown essay.

When you've written your contribution, click the "create topic" button and you're done. The message goes onto the notice board carrying your name and comments.

2 Comment on an existing topic

Once a member loads a new topic, others can contribute thoughts, attacking the argument, beefing it up or rushing off on a complete tangent. It's your discussion and you decide content!

This time, because the category and topic have already been set, you have no choice about them. Enter your response to the message and click the "post message" button.

Now, look at the main page and see that your contribution has been added to others grouped under this category. The next user, doing the same, can expand on your information or offer an alternative to it. In this way, a topic grows, becoming a record to which you can refer if it's explaining technical or regulatory matters.

3 As messages are entered they queue in the list, showing category and topics, the originator's name, the number of posts (contributions) to the topic and the date the latest contribution was made. Recent posts are highlighted in orange as an aid to save you having to troll through old messages to find new information.

Subject:	Starter:	Posts:	Last Post:
ADMINISTRATION			
Christmas shutdown	I Grooby	1	11-12-06 @ 14:14
GENERAL BUSINESS			
web site	D Parsons	2	08-12-06 @ 11:22
New Rules	I Grooby	1	07-12-06 @ 14:25
TECHNICAL INFORMATION			
Meeting	I Grooby	1	16-01-07 @ 08:07
Crane Code of Practice	I Grooby	1	07-12-06 @ 14:23

Logout