

Council gets cracking

A lot has happened a short time into the Association's new year. The council has met and formed a subcommittee to look at road user charges on all-terrain cranes. Many thanks to those people who provided data on their registrations – however there are still a number of companies who do not respond to requests for information, despite being asked on more than one occasion. We appreciate that everyone is busy but it makes it difficult for the council to try to get action if its efforts are not supported.

Mobile Crane Inspections

The council has also formed a subcommittee to look at a more detailed list of inspection requirements for mobile cranes. Members will recall that the "10 & 25 year rebuild" programme adopted by the Australians was not accepted here. However, council and members also recognised the need to work closer with the inspection bodies to ensure that everyone knows what the levels are. Work is progressing on this and the council will consult members before making any final decisions. It is pleasing that a closer liaison is developing as a result of discussions with the inspection bodies and council feels confident that there will be a better understanding by all parties of the responsibilities under the legislation as a consequence.

Best Practice Guidelines for Scaffolding

I know that a number of crane companies have an interest in this area and the new guideline is available. For the first 10 companies that contact us we will be able to supply for \$50 (plus GST) – normal price after that will be \$60 (plus GST).

Code of Practice for Cranes

We've been told that the reviewed Code of Practice should be signed in a matter of days. Once signed and received here it will be forwarded to all members.

BESS

There are now 2 "crane people" who are registered as assessors for BESS.

In addition to Danny Stephen from Alexandra, who has been registered from the outset, Ken Claydon from Christchurch is now able to conduct assessments for Unit Standard 23436.



From the President

I have just attended the Crane Industry Council of Australia conference in Canberra and while we are still in a recession they had a good turnout and already have secured sponsorship for some of their 2010 conference to be held in Perth. Some of the sessions were irrelevant to New Zealanders but it is always good to network and find out what is happening in Australia and elsewhere.

As we mentioned in the August newsletter the council will meet in Christchurch in November and we've invited member companies and their staff to the Grand Chancellor at round 6.30 pm on 23 November to meet the council. It will give people a chance to raise issues.

Should you want to stay on for a meal with council this is being arranged – at \$50 per head.

For further details contact the office.

*Malcolm McWhannell,
President*

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Membership

It is again pleasing to see a further increase in the membership.

We welcome the following companies.

Each has joined as full members of the Association:

- Rintoul Civil Ltd, Kerikeri
- Multi Civil Contractors Ltd, Wellington

Software for the crane & hire industries become available in New Zealand

One of Australia's largest software developers for the Crane and Equipment hire industries has opened a New Zealand office. Field At Work supplies software for order-taking, dispatch and billing functions. The package is called Equipment at Work.

The company supplies some of Australia's biggest and most successful crane and equipment hire businesses with its software. It says the software looks after a combined total of more than 700 cranes, several thousand other "for hire" pieces of equipment and several thousand staff.

However, Keith Swasbrook, Field at Work's New Zealand commercial manager, says, "You don't have to be anywhere near that size of business to gain significant return on investment from using Equipment At Work."

Field at work is not a total stranger to the New Zealand market as it has had a comprehensive software product working for mini tankers for several years.

The model by which Field At Work operates is "Software as a Service" (SaaS). SaaS is a low-cost way for businesses to obtain rights to use industry-specific software for a relatively low monthly cost.

The software is hosted externally in secure commercial-grade data centres. Access to the software data is through a web browser. This means that this can be accessed from any computer, anywhere, by providing the correct logon.

SaaS has become common and examples include Trademe, Google, Hotmail, Gmail, Youtube etc.

Field At Work also has products for servicing, asset management, transport and field sales teams.

To learn more about the benefits of the Equipment at Work please email kswasbrook@fieldatwork.com or call Keith on 09 280 4221 or 021 840 530.



Why cranes topple

A 35-year veteran of the crane industry who has studied more than 766 crane accidents since 2000 has concluded that the main cause of these accidents is operators failing to follow manufacturers' instructions.

Terry McGettigan has written in *International Cranes* that 625 people have died in the accidents he's studied around the world. Already this year, he says 36 people have died in crane accidents and he suspects the figures may double when unreported accidents are accounted for.

McGettigan has 35 years industry experience and is still an active crane operator as well as an independent inspector and consultant.

McGettigan's research found a little under half of the tower crane accidents happened during erection, dismantling or climbing to raise the crane's height. He says the primary cause was failing to follow the manufacturers' instructions. The magazine points out that in the United States, to qualify as a hairdresser requires 1,500 hours of instruction, including written and practical skills and a requirement to be licenced. It says few, if any inspectors and others who work with cranes would be simi-

larly tested and qualified. McGettigan has set his safety standards as:

1. Public safety is paramount
2. Strictly adhere to manufacturers' standards
3. Credentials. Everyone is thoroughly trained and experienced
4. Prudent planning to avoid shortcuts if a schedule falls behind
5. Assembly/disassembly. Assist cranes should not exceed 75% capacity
6. Independent oversight. On site audit during risky procedures.



- Unknown
- Mother Nature
- Operator error
- In operation
- Erection dismantling/climbing

World wide crane accident causes
- 2000-09

Shocker - Anti-gravity boots



This photo was used in a newspaper article to highlight best practice in construction safety because the worker is wearing all the safety gear. [Those boots obviously must be anti-gravity boots!]

We are not sure whether to give the an absolute shocker award to the photo or the person who put it into the article.

Rather than being best practice, it displays two of the most dangerous work practices in construction:

- Working on a suspended load, and
- Working at height without fall protection.

■ People make the difference

HUMAN ERROR IS THE PREDOMINANT CAUSE OF CRANE ACCIDENTS.

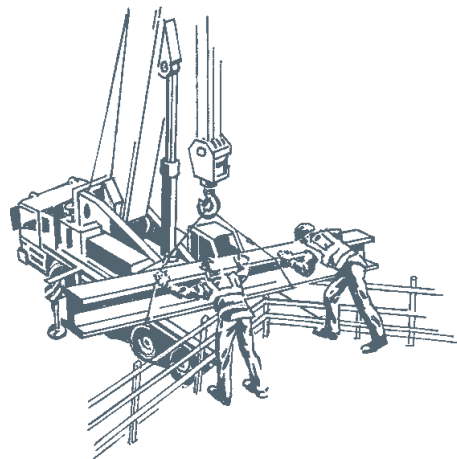
Cranes are dynamic machines. They demand and deserve the respect and safety consciousness of everyone associated with their use, maintenance and operation.

People are the biggest influence on safe working conditions. The single most important factor in preventing injury and death on the job is having competent and reliable personnel, who are safety conscious.

COMPETENT AND RELIABLE PEOPLE ARE THOSE WHO:

- Have acquired through a combination of qualifications, training or experience the knowledge & skill to perform the task required;
- Take pride in themselves and their work;
- Are mentally alert and at their physical best;
- Are knowledgeable about and have a healthy respect for the powerful machines they operate or work with.

Effective instruction and training in the basic safety principles of crane operation and accident prevention measures are essential and vital requirements for all people involved with cranes.



CRANE SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS -

THE CRANE MANUFACTURER,
THE CRANE OWNER,
THE CRANE USER,
THE CRANE OPERATOR.

*highest standard – **safety first***

