

newsletter dispatches

December 2009

Chief Executive's report

I have been one of the most vocal critics of the authorities in the past but it's time now to echo the President's comments regarding the signing of the Code of Practice and the excellent communication with Department of Labour officials that has developed as a result of this exercise. I am sure that this will continue into the future.

Although the Code has been signed the council also undertook to work with officials to look at the development of best practice guidelines in specific areas. We have identified a number of items where the detail has been removed from the Code. These cover machines that are not specifically designed as cranes but which can be used as such and include telehandlers, piling/drilling rigs, man cages etc.

In the November newsletter we mentioned the meeting to be held in Christchurch with members and it was pleasing to see about 25 staff from a number of member companies attend.

Judging from comments I have received, many went away knowing a lot more about what the council and ITO actually do and so I consider it to have been successful.

We are going to repeat this in Auckland on the evening of 1st March and already I have indications from 14 companies (23 staff) attending.

Road User Charges

A submission has been sent to the authorities seeking a review of road user charges. Further detailed information is about to be provided as we all believe that in the case of the large-tyred cranes, our members are paying too much.

Christmas closure

The office will close at noon on 23 December and will reopen on Monday 11 January.

I would take this opportunity to thank the council, members and industry experts for all of their input during 2009 (there is always something requiring attention).

Without the help and support we would not be in a position to be listened to by the authorities. I wish everyone and their families all the very best for a safe and happy Christmas and a great 2010.



From the President

How do I start except to say "We finally made it". On 3 December the Minister of Labour (Hon Kate Wilkinson) signed the 3rd edition of the Code of Practice for Cranes, effective 7 January 2010.

On behalf of the Association's council I thank all of the council, members and industry experts for their input. Thanks too, to Department of Labour officials who helped right the wrongs in the previous version. Work continues and we have already started on a more extensive content list for mobile and overhead crane inspections. After completing discussions with the inspection bodies we will be coming out to the membership for comments.

This is the last newsletter for 2009 and I wish all readers a very merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous 2010. Next year is already shaping up to be as busy as this past year.

Malcolm McWhannell,
President

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Conference 2010

We have sent out the preliminary notice and programme for the 2010 conference.

Those intending to attend the conference please note that to take advantage of the early registration price, the registrations must be received by 31 December. That's just a little over three weeks away.

■ General Safety Precautions – Crane Operators

A clean and tidy crane cab is the first indication of an efficient and conscientious crane operator.

Be a good housekeeper ... keep the deck clean, free of oil, grease, rags, cables, chains, buckets, barrels and other hazards. Keep loose parts in a toolbox. Be sure your safety footwear is clean and dry – this will reduce the possibility of your foot slipping off a control pedal, resulting in an accident.

Be safety conscious and alert. Never perform an unsafe act or work in obviously hazardous conditions.

Regularly inspect machines that you operate or for which you are responsible.

Keep the machine in proper adjustment at all times. Serious injury to ground personnel or damage to equipment could result if adjustments are neglected.

Stop the machine when lubricating or adjusting. IT IS IMPERATIVE TO STOP ALL OPERATIONS when cleaning, adjusting or lubricating the machine.

Report any unsafe condition promptly so that it can be corrected as soon as possible.

Replace GUARDS after adjustment. Unguarded machinery can cause accidents and is a contravention of the regulations.

DO NOT OPERATE unless all repairs have been completed and the machine is in good working order.

Keep the entire machine clean. Quick and easy inspections are possible on a clean machine. Dirt hides potential failures.

LUBRICATION

Keeping your machine properly lubricated is the most effective way to prevent failures and consequent costly repairs. In order to properly protect your machine and get the best performance and longest life out of it, schedules of lubrication and preventive maintenance **MUST** be adhered to, according to the manufacturers' charts.

Keep all lubricants and lubricating equipment clean and free of contamination both while in storage and while in use.

Clean all grease fittings and surfaces before applying a grease gun. Dirt on fittings will be forced through along with the clean grease and will cause wear and premature material failures.

Avoid overgreasing. Excess lubricants will be thrown into clutches and brakes and will cause slipping.

Be sure safety equipment, such as a fire extinguisher, is available.

USE BOTH HANDS AT ALL TIMES WHEN DISMOUNTING OR CLIMBING AROUND THE MACHINE. DO NOT JUMP OFF A MACHINE AS A NORMAL METHOD OF DISMOUNTING.

Ensure when leaving the crane at the end of the day that it is safe and operator's cab/s are locked and windows closed

highest standard – safety first

