

Cranes & Lifting

Special Feature



The focus is generally on risk minimisation rather than elimination.

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accident or sudden illness. If this occurs in the boom, it is very difficult to withdraw the operator as a vertical descent may be required.

Proper risk assessment should identify the rescue method, the necessary equipment and the training requirement for both the rescue team and the operator. Consideration may also be required for operator self rescue, for instance, in case of a fire below the crane tower. This may require operator training on self rescue equipment and techniques such as automatic descenders, as well as training ground crews on managing operator recovery at ground level.

Fall Arrest Equipment

The operation, erection and dismantling of cranes require

a fall protection plan as with any situation involving working at heights. The selection and use of equipment designed to the Australian Standard AS/NZS1891.1.2007 is essential and those expected to work at height – in assembly, operation, maintenance or rescue – must be adequately trained and certified by an properly accredited registered training organisation.

The FPMA comprises several leading Australian companies in the design and manufacture of fall protection equipment. This professional association has strongly supported the tightening of the standards surrounding the selection, use and maintenance of height safety equipment.

For further information, visit www.fpma.com.au or contact Gordon Cadzow at info@fpma.com.au

CICA President's message

ONCE again, the CICA Conference held in September in Melbourne attracted a record attendance, with 340 delegates enjoying the Field Day at Flemington Racecourse, the Conference sessions and the various social functions.

A highlight of the Conference was the Con Popov Award for outstanding services to the crane industry given to Kevin Wheeler from Victoria. Kevin is thoroughly deserving of this award and now having sold his business, will be retiring from the industry. We wish Kevin a long and happy retirement. Perhaps he may join that other retiree from Howlong on fishing trips.

Other highlights included Stuart Anderson's presentation which went to great detail on the major Chinese crane manufacturers, detailing the cranes sold both locally and overseas. Not surprisingly, the value of their exports is expected to double in 2008, compared with 2007. Stuart also spoke of the Chinese cranes working in Australia. This was a warts and all presentation that was appreciated by the audience. Afterwards, many sought a copy of his presentation – such was the impact!

The Major Crane Manufacturers panel was again very interesting, but brought no joy to crane buyers who hoped that the slowing world economy would help reduce lead times for new cranes. Many markets are holding up, especially for large capacity cranes.

However, with the massive devaluation of the Australian dollar against all leading currencies in recent weeks, orders from Australian buyers are being cancelled. I now hear that the waiting time for cranes below 100t capacity, has been significantly reduced.

The Intelligent Access Program (IAP) is now a reality for many mobile cranes in



John Gillespie, President, CICA

Victoria. Since November 1, 2008, most cranes that travel with overmass and or oversize permit are required to operate under IAP. Interstate crane companies need to be aware that this requirement also affects them for any travel into Victoria.

The Mobile Crane Concessional Benefits Scheme in NSW will be rolled into IAP during 2009. The State Association is already in discussions with the Roads & Traffic Authority with the aim of increasing the benefits to companies in the scheme and at the same time seeking to protect companies, especially those based outside of the metropolitan areas that have little to gain from IAP.

Next year's conference will be held, for the first time in Canberra at the National Convention Centre, commencing September 30, 2009. This is a little later than normal, so please put this date into your diary.

After the turmoil in the world in recent weeks and all of the gloom and doom talk, the time is fast approaching to get away for a great summer holiday. I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and the hope of profitable lifting in 2009.



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