Sales soar for DVD

Sales of the new ALLMI / FTA training DVD "The Safe Use of Lorry Loaders" have soared since its release on 29th September, with over 5,000 copies shipped to more than 100 companies.

ALLMI executive director, Tom Wakefield, said: "we've been delighted with the response to the DVD. We received extensive interest and a large number of orders before it became available, but the actual level of demand has far exceeded our expectations. The feedback indicates that it is proving to be an excellent training aid for periodic and on-going formal training and assessment, and that the documents on Disc Two are assisting employers and operators in adopting best practice procedures and complying with the legal requirements demonstrated in the DVD. We're continuing to receive orders on a daily basis and it's great to see that the guidance is reaching all areas of the industry and playing a key role in raising standards."

To order the DVD or to view a trailer, visit ***www.allmi.com***

Work at Height Guidance

As a result of the recent Forum Executive Committee meeting and further to discussions at previous General Meetings, ALLMI has started the process of producing guidance for operators who perform work at height, with particular emphasis on the issue of using the loader crane as an anchoring point for fall arrest equipment.

The issue has already been the subject of considerable debate amongst fleet owners and crane manufacturers, but ALLMI is now in a position to move forward with the project and will discuss the matter at the Operators' Forum General Meeting on 24th November, further to which a draft document will be uploaded to the ALLMI website for members to comment.

Guidance on independent Thorough Examinations

As part of its contribution to the revision of BS7121 Part 2 (Safe Use of Cranes - Inspection, Testing and Examination) and further to some lively debates at the General Meetings in June, ALLMI has been reviewing the requirement under LOLER (Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations) for persons conducting Thorough Examinations to be sufficiently impartial.

Technical director, Alan Johnson, says: "this has been an issue of some debate within the lorry loader industry and we're hoping that the new version of Part 2 will provide clarification on the matter. In the meantime and in accordance with the draft section for lorry loaders that we've submitted to the Part 2 working group, we've provided members with some interim guidance on the subject. The key point is the importance of taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the person conducting the Thorough Examination is sufficiently impartial from those carrying out routine maintenance and where this cannot be achieved, that the employer of the competent person has a suitable audit trail in place to demonstrate that the impartiality and integrity of such examinations is periodically measured and documented by a senior engineer or manager of the company."

Standard Terms and Conditions working group

Further to a recent meeting of the Operators' Forum executive committee, ALLMI has formed a working group to look at the production of a standard set of "Standard Terms and Conditions for a Lifting Contract with a Lorry Loader." Heading the project is ALLMI's technical director, Alan Johnson, who says: "ALLMI members have made a commitment to ensuring that best practice is adopted at all times and we know that they sometimes become frustrated when clients place business with other (non-ALLMI) companies due to price or ignorance, which on most occasions results in the trimming of standards. We have therefore decided to form a working group which will compile a set of Terms and Conditions, with the aim of making this the benchmark for the industry and something we can promote at all levels, so that members' clients ask for and expect it as a guarantee of best practice. We emailed members in October asking for working group volunteers and the response was overwhelming. The next step is to discuss this issue in detail at the Operators' Forum General Meeting on 24th November, after which the working group can set a first meeting date and an agenda in line with the wishes of the membership."

The working group will consist of representatives from the following companies:

- Portakabin
- Saint Gobain Building Distribution
- Speedy Services
- 19 Transport
- Travis Perkins
- Rapid Response Solutions
- Advante
- David Watson Transport

Revision of ISO Standard 15442 - Safety Requirements for Loader Cranes

The ALLMI Technical Committee has recently been involved in the consultation process for the revision of ISO standard 15442 "Safety Requirements for Loader Cranes", with feedback channelled via ALLMI's BSI representative, Bryan Flintham of Atlas Cranes UK. "The current draft is based on discussions held at international level in which the UK has played an active part. Whilst promoting loader crane safety, this revision to the standard is also intended to facilitate global trade by harmonizing the various safety requirements of participating countries. The feedback stage has now closed and BSI has until 9th December to submit its comments to ISO," said Flintham.

New training database

ALLMI recently launched its new web driven database, a bespoke system designed to facilitate the processing of operator training registrations. "At present we're only using the facility on an internal trial basis, but when it goes live, instructors will log into the system via the ALLMI website and inform us of the courses they have scheduled. This will enable us to increase auditing activity levels and carry out unannounced monitoring visits, which we feel will further raise the already high standard of training being delivered, and build upon the excellent levels of consistency across the ALLMI Training Provider network. Whilst this is the primary reason for introducing the new system, it will bring many other benefits, such as further enhancing the credibility of the ALLMI scheme with end users and site personnel, providing instructors with the ability to view and manage their course schedules online, while facilitating a more streamlined and automated administrative process. The new system will also provide the potential for improved statistical analysis of training activity," said Tom Wakefield of ALLMI.

General Meetings – 24th November & 8th December

ALLMI will soon hold its second set of General Meetings for 2011 for fleet owners (24th November) and manufacturer / service company (8th December) members.

In both cases, members will be provided with updates on a range issues and projects being dealt with by the association, including a full technical and legislative report. The meetings will also review the ALLMI / FTA training DVD, and discuss ALLMI's affiliation agreement with CPCS. Fleet owner members will also be asked to debate the merits and possible content of a Terms and Conditions document for a lifting contract with a lorry loader, as well as guidance for operators performing work at height. "The General Meetings present an excellent opportunity to provide members with updates on a number of fronts and just as importantly, to get their feedback on the projects we're involved in. Members also find them beneficial in terms of being kept up to date with issues affecting lorry loaders and as a means of networking with their peers," comments Tom Wakefield of ALLMI.

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