

Pre-operational checks campaign - reminder

The effective maintenance of a lorry loader is an essential part of the equipment's safe operation, and pre-operational checks are a crucial element of this regime. The checks are also a legal requirement and the Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) has the authority to issue on the spot fines for non-compliance. For these reasons, it's imperative that pre-operational checks are carried out and that lorry loader operators undergo the necessary training in order to fulfil this part of their job role.

As a key part of its ongoing campaign to raise awareness and further improve industry practice in relation to this important topic, ALLMI has made the following tools available:

- A web based video: 'Pre-Operational Checks'. Broken down into three sections, this covers the most common lorry loader applications, i.e. hook, builders' merchants and utilities.



- A ready-made toolbox-talk template for use by supervisors and managers.
- Pre-Operational Check Pads and associated Windscreen Holders.

To view, download or order the above, contact ALLMI or visit www.allmi.com

ALLMI / ENA partnership reminder

ALLMI is working with the Energy Networks Association (ENA) to promote the organisation's 'Look Out, Look Up!' campaign, which concerns the dangers of working near overhead power lines.

The ENA has made a range of campaign tools available, including (but not limited to) the following:



The ENA's cab sticker.

- A cab warning sticker, which also contains important information in the event of contact with an overhead power line.
- A safety leaflet containing 'Top Tips' on this subject.
- A hard hitting video, bringing home the consequences and impact of accidents of this nature.

For access to the above tools, as well as the wider campaign material, visit: www.allmi.com/overheadpowerlines

Thorough examination of loader cranes on waterborne vessels

ALLMI's Guidance Note series continues to expand, with the recent publication of 'GN031 - Thorough Examination of Loader Cranes on Waterborne Vessels'. Developed in consultation with the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) and aimed primarily at owners, operators and Thorough Examiners working in this specialist sector, the document explains how the requirements differ for each of the following topics, when compared to those for a crane mounted on a vehicle:

- Legislation and standards
- The 'Competent Person'
- Frequency of testing
- The testing process
- Reports of Thorough Examination
- Reporting defects
- Keeping of information



For a complimentary copy of this Guidance Note, please contact ALLMI.

The importance of product familiarisation

ALLMI has long highlighted the importance of product familiarisation and the problems that arise when this training is not provided to operators.

ALLMI technical manager, Keith Silvester, comments "There is a clear legal duty on the part of the employer and the employee for lorry loaders to be operated safely, and an important aspect of ensuring this is for the operator to be fully conversant with the loader crane being used. Therefore, the operator must not only undergo the appropriate basic training, but also receive machine familiarisation at the point of handover. It is essential that the operator is familiarised with any features that are specific to that particular type of crane, because with manufacturers continually improving their designs, experience of using one make or model does not mean that an operator will be conversant with any other."

ALLMI chief executive Tom Wakefield, added: "All parties need to understand the importance of product familiarisation and the significant problems that can occur when it does not take place, or when it's not carried out to the correct standard. The importance of documenting the process should also be fully appreciated, and this includes situations where a customer declines the offer of familiarisation, in which case their response should be appropriately recorded and signed off."

ALLMI's guidance is divided into two parts, containing a template form to be used by those carrying out product familiarisation, as well as a supporting document explaining each of the areas to be covered during the process and details of the audit trail that should be put in place.

The following are just some of the areas covered by ALLMI's documentation:

- Rated capacity load charts
- Safety systems
- Air suspension
- Crane & attachment functions
- Control levers / remote controls
- Operator checks & maintenance
- Un-stowing / stowing functions
- Documentation
- Stabiliser / outrigger deployment / stowing

ALLMI's product familiarisation guidance is freely available and readers are encouraged to contact the association to obtain a copy, or to request assistance in relation to this important topic.



For details of ALLMI standards, guidance documents and training, visit: www.allmi.com