

# Instructor Training

The importance of good quality operator training is widely accepted today, and when it comes to loader cranes the ALLMI training programme is well recognised throughout the industry. However, the content of the training programme is only one aspect of good training. The knowledge and ability of the person delivering the training is also a major factor.

All too often problems with operators can be traced back to the poor level of training they have received, through the lack of ability and knowledge of the person delivering the information. ALLMI recognises that if the highest standards of operation, efficiency and safety are to be achieved by operators of lorry loaders, the need for the setting of high standards in relation to the training of instructors is paramount. As ALLMI accreditation becomes increasingly sought after we take a look at the process that instructors must undergo in order to achieve ALLMI accreditation.

## Qualifications/Experience

If you're a fleet owner the next time your operators are being trained, ask the instructor what qualifies him/her to be in that position. Are they qualified in terms of the necessary teaching skills that facilitate the effective communication of the course content? Do they have a recognised qualification as an operator, and if so, is that supported with 'real world' experience.



ALLMI insists that all instructors are qualified and experienced operators and slinger/signallers, in addition to holding a recognised instructional techniques qualification.

## Instructor Course

Once the above qualifications and experience have been established, the instructor can then attend the ALLMI Instructors Course. This is the only course of its kind in the UK put together by the manufacturers of the equipment, in conjunction with leading training companies and the HSE.

Instructors are taken through the numerous course modules that they will be required to deliver to operators, e.g. legislation, hydraulics, pre-operational checks, maintenance, loader crane attachments, documentation, siting and setting up the crane, correct operation and of course, correct stowing procedures.

In addition to this, instructors are put through a series of assessments to establish their skills and knowledge in the following areas:

*Legislation*

*Training & Technical Standards*

*Instructional Techniques*

*Operating Skills and Knowledge*

*Presenting Practical Lessons*

*Administering Examinations*

*Report Writing*

With a minimum score of 90 percent required in the majority of these assessments, the course clearly puts the instructors through their paces.

ALLMI general manager, Tom Wakefield, says: "the course content and assessments are very demanding, but the quality of tuition is first class and so candidates are well prepared for the final examinations."

Tony Betts of Mobile Freezer Rentals recently attended an ALLMI Instructor course: "I've been involved with lorry loaders for many years



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and although I considered myself to be very knowledgeable in this area, attending the ALLMI course has increased my level of understanding and has also taken my teaching skills and adapted them perfectly towards delivering lorry loader training." However, what happens after the course has been completed?

Quality training will only remain at a high standard if ongoing updates and support is provided. Annual monitoring and feedback takes place for all instructors. ALLMI also provides a direct contact with each of the major loader crane manufacturers in order for up to date product information to be obtained. In addition, a range of training aids is provided which further helps with the quality of the course delivery, as well as a password protected area of the ALLMI website which allows information to be downloaded by instructors.

## Slinger/Signaller Update

In October ALLMI launched its new Slinger/Signaller training course. Six months on, Wakefield says that the take-up rate of accreditation for the category amongst ALLMI instructors has been impressive and he expects this trend to continue throughout 2007. "Clearly in many cases the course has been delivered back to back with ALLMI lorry loader training, but the content is so comprehensive that the skills learned on the course can be applied to slinging and signalling practices with any type of lifting equipment and so it appealed to a wide range of end users," he says.

The ALLMI Slinger/Signaller course modules include: Legislation, Pre & Post Operational Checks, Planning the Lift, Use of Lifting Accessories, Storage and Maintenance, Signaller

Duties and Signals and much more. The course culminates in both written and practical assessments for every candidate.



## Examination Training

Following extensive work by ALLMI's Technical and Training Committees, the ALLMI 'Thorough Examination and Load Test' training programme is due to be released this year, with the first course on May 2nd and 3rd. The training scheme, which will only be available to ALLMI members, will include instruction on all issues surrounding Thorough Examinations and Load Tests for lorry loaders, such as, legislation, risk assessments, visual inspections, function checks, overload tests, stability tests and dynamic tests.

A full review of this course, will be included in the next edition of Cranes&Access.