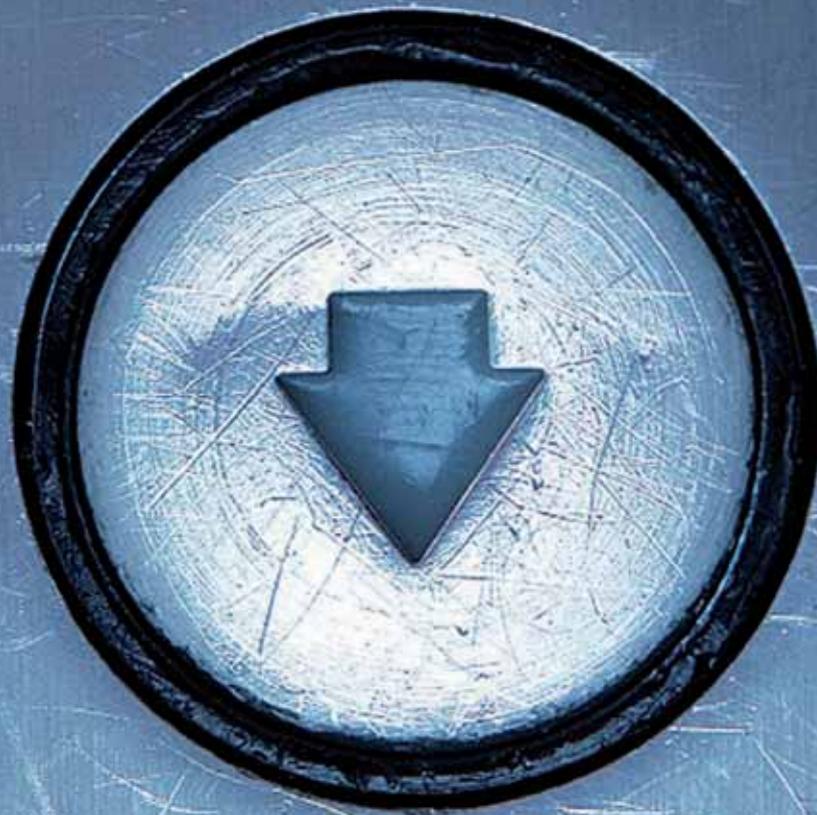


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On the cover:

Testing with a crash test dummy confirmed that the new ZT 'trouser' harness exerts significantly less pressure than a conventional harness. (see full story on page 64)



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Appleton to step down at Lavendon, Mijnlief leaves Gardemann, Four yearly crane overload testing, Tadano shows new 400 tonner, Land Rover chassis recall, Demag Cranes rejects Terex bid, 3,600 tonne Sany, Another new Multitel from Pagliero, Movex plans wider dealer network, FEM advice on lifting people with cranes, Power Towers opens in Holland, Altec acquires Aerial Lift of Connecticut, Youngman launches 'anti-surf' podiums, New Hiab loader crane, LSI steps up European presence, ALE launches 50,000 tonne Mega Jack system, Loxam acquires Stammiss,



Financials round-up, Time/Versalift's new van outrigger, King Lifting takes five Terex ATs, Lube A-Boom moves into Europe, Ruthmann adds new 33 metre and telematics.

Spider lifts 17

The spider lift is a true marvel of engineering, the product range is diverse and highly developed and financially provides an excellent return on investment with strong growth potential. But it is still relatively unknown by most end users.



Cranes & Access looks at new ways to promote the specialist product as well as rounding up the more important recent events in the sector.

Tower cranes 25

Over the past six months or so the construction industry as a whole and high rise construction in particular, has continued to show signs of recovery - to the point where interest in tower cranes is on the rise again. Manufacturers are also fuelling this interest by adding new models. We take a look at the latest introductions as well as a few interesting applications.



IPAF summit 35 & 49

Cranes & Access editor Mark Darwin comments on the recent IPAF Summit in Amsterdam and this is followed by our now annual 'rogues' picture gallery of the networking event, summit and the awards dinner.



Vertikal Days guide 37

Now in its fifth year, the Vertikal Days event is bigger than ever. Find out everything you need to know about all the exhibitors, seminars and exhibits in this 12 page 'pull-out' show special.



A safe pair of trousers 64

ZT Safety Systems has launched a completely new fall arrest harness concept. We visit the company's production facility and learn about the amazing story of the innovative product from drawing board to final production.

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In the next C&A

In the packed June/July issue we will be looking at Industrial pick & carry cranes, a review of the Vertikal Days show, the 2011 Dealer Guide and Industrial access/compact electric lifts



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c&a comment



Accident or incident?

According to my copy of the Concise Oxford English Dictionary an accident is 'an unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally or something that might happen by chance or without apparent cause'. However due to the increasing 'blame culture' in

many countries, people are now realising that almost all accidents happen because of something someone did or did not do i.e. the risk was 'reasonable' and 'foreseeable' which makes someone liable in law.

Thinking about the common 'accidents' we may encounter - car accidents (mainly caused by speeding, drink/drugs, weather conditions, brake/tyre defects etc) falls from height (incorrectly set up or inappropriate equipment, no safety harness etc) and cranes tipping over (incorrectly set outriggers, poor ground conditions, wrong counterweight, overloading etc..) - we realise that almost all should be called incidents as the risk was 'reasonable' and 'foreseeable'. (See the excellent letter sent in by Mike Ponsoby on page 69.)

But how far should we take this because everything we do - from the time we get out of bed (Fact: 400,000 people in the USA suffer injuries relaxing or sleeping in bed!) in the morning - has some form of risk.

The European material handling federation - FEM - recently published advice which virtually bans lifting people with cranes for entertainment purposes adding to similar long-term HSE advice on the subject. If there is a risk crossing the road, then of course there is a risk to say bungee jumping from a crane boom, (but is that the risk related to the crane or jumping?) And what about a sedate garden at the Chelsea Flower show - how risky is that?

Diarmuid Gavin's Sky Garden attracted a lot of media interest for winning a gold medal and being a novel idea, but also for its risk element - lifting people with a crane for 'entertainment' purposes.

The HSE was alerted by safety professionals before the show opened, it delegated the decision to the local council which has no specialist inspectors and virtually dodged the issue. It also appears that the designer was made aware that lifting people would conflict with HSE and FEM policies. Had more forethought been applied it might have been possible to have found an alternative lifting method?

But is this being a killjoy or jobsworth? Was the risk 'reasonable'? Would you have gone up to see the view from the 'Avatar-inspired' garden? Certainly the law should not be interpreted differently just because it is high profile - the risk was foreseeable, but so is everything.

I just wonder if something had happened, would we have called it an accident or incident....???

Mark Darwin

Please mail, email or fax any comments you may have, to the editor, stating if we may publish them or not.

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