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IPAF **PASMA**

All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.



Virtual simulators provide a cost effective and safe method of training

Virtual training for 3,200t crane

International heavy lift company Mammoet has installed a custom-built PTC simulator at its training centre in the Netherlands to provide virtual training on its largest crane - the 3,200 tonne PTC 140/200 DS.

The simulator has been designed to precisely replicate the real crane and features the same operating system, cab, server rack, crane control cabinet and an instructor station. High definition screens and multiple speakers provide realistic visuals and sounds of the crane and its surroundings, while its programming also provides an almost endless number of training scenarios. Variables range from the configuration of the crane to the size and weight of the load and different weather conditions.

The simulator also provides operators with the chance to practice real-life lifts, as well as serve to demonstrate the proposed lift to clients by using a virtual model of their facility and the component being lifted. Furthermore, the software can be used to make an extensive risk assessment as well as practice the lift under various circumstances, providing Mammoet with more time to prepare the operation in detail. The entire crew is also able to see what the job entails, how long it might take and identify potential hazards.

MOM steps up crane inspections

Singapore's Ministry of Manpower has launched an enforcement operation targeting crane and lifting operations following seven reported incidents since January.

Chan Yew Kwong, MOM director of the Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate, said: "I am dismayed that we have seen six accidents involving cranes in less than three weeks. This is totally unacceptable. Our preliminary findings indicate that many of these cases could have been prevented if lifting plans were properly implemented and regular functionality checks on crane's safety devices were conducted. Safety is paramount. Employers must play their part in taking the necessary preventive measures to put an end to unsafe lifting operations."

MOM has had a number of such 'crackdowns' since new crane rules were published in 2011, the latest of which took place last November. Each time it takes action against around 80 companies. Some claim that in between the public crackdowns, the ministry comes under pressure to 'back-off' its inspections.

There have been seven crane related incidents since January



Manitowoc is providing preventive maintenance training for operators in South America

Operator training from Manitowoc

Manitowoc has introduced a training programme for South America, aimed at providing operators with preventive maintenance training for its cranes.

Available in both Portuguese and Spanish, from facilities in Brazil, Chile, Mexico and other locations in South and Central America, the three to five day courses provide specific instructions on crane operation, diagnostics, maintenance and repairs. They also emphasise electric, hydraulic, pneumatic, and mechanical theory and practical tests. Once completed, trainees receive a technical certification endorsed by Manitowoc.

Repeat offences costs \$184k

Jacksonville, Florida, roofing contractor Great White Construction was fined \$184,000, after its employees were caught working on sites without fall protection last September and October.

Since 2012, OSHA has inspected Great White sites five times and issued multiple citations for repeated and serious violations of fall protection and other safety standards. Other violations have included not training employees in how to use fall protection systems.

Brian Sturtecky, OSHA area director in Jacksonville, said: "The crew leader told the inspector that he was given proper equipment and training and knew the regulations, but chose to ignore them. OSHA will continue to cite violations and issue penalties when employers fail in their responsibility to protect workers."

My Future My Choice

Education charity My Future My Choice will host two 'Lifting Aspirations' workshops at Vertikal Days, with the aim to encourage and inspire school children on the benefits of working in the crane and lifting sector.

Sponsored by Liebherr UK, and using volunteers from the construction industry, the children will work together to construct a cardboard crane or robotic hydraulic arm, whilst exploring the principles of pneumatics, hydraulics, gears and pulleys. They will also learn the lifestyle opportunities available in the lifting and access industry, while having a fun learning opportunity. The workshops will be followed by a supervised tour of the exhibition.

My Future My Choice will once again be exhibiting at Vertikal Days this year.



Who trained them then?

Spotted in Australia, a man using a step ladder on a sloping roof to reach an antenna.

