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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.

Network Rail hit for £210,000

The UK's Network Rail has been fined £125,000 plus costs of £85,000, following the death of a track maintenance employee in June 2008. Malcolm Slater, along with two other Network Rail employees, were repairing overhead train lines between Margaretting and Ingatstone, Essex, using a road-rail truck mounted aerial lift when the platform broke free from the boom. The basket fell around five metres to the ground with all three men sustaining serious injuries, Slater died from his injuries three weeks later.

An investigation by the Office of Rail Regulation revealed that Network Rail failed to provide suitable work equipment, adequate training or properly plan the repair work. It also failed to identify the fact that the lift's overload sensor had been disengaged, in spite of evidence showing that the platform capacity had been significantly exceeded on a regular basis.

Ian Prosser director of railway safety at the regulator said: "While Network Rail has significantly increased its focus on worker safety, there remain too many occasions where a lack of appropriate training, poor management or inadequate planning leads to a catastrophic event. The company must do all it can to ensure the safety of those working on our railways and on this occasion, unacceptable failings by the company were identified."



The rail-mounted aerial lift following the incident

Konecranes opens UK centre

Finnish overhead crane and lifting equipment specialist Konecranes has opened a new training centre at its UK headquarters in Castle Donington, Leicestershire. The centre will provide training for Konecranes technicians and inspectors as well as customer service staff and crane operators. The courses will cover specialist product and maintenance training, health and safety as well as Tech 1 and 2 Service Technician Certification programmes and employee induction training.

Two purpose-built training rooms can accommodate up to 16 delegates, with the first containing the latest audio-visual and presentation equipment, while the second is designed for hands-on electrical training, featuring mobile workbenches and a variety of hoists.

A workshop training area allows training on overhead cranes and hoists to be undertaken at ground level and includes two fully automated and synchronised 2.5 tonne single gantry electric hoists as well as a combination of Konecranes' CXT hoists and CLX overhead cranes.



The new UK training centre features a combination of practical and theory-based training areas



C&A

training

GGR has expanded CPCS offering to include a range of machines including the pick & carry crane.

Glazing robot and portable crane training

Glass and lifting specialist GGR is the first company to offer the Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA) certified training schemes for operating glazing robots and portable workshop cranes. Available at the company's training facilities in Manchester, Buckinghamshire and Glasgow, the one day courses are available for Glassboy glazing robots, Bigfoot workshop cranes, Glassmax manual hoists, Oscar glazing robots and the Unic mini crane compatible GL-UMC600 Glazing Manipulator.

The company has also expanded its range of training courses to provide theory and practical-based CPCS A66 courses for mini cranes, pick & carry cranes, trailer cranes, compact crawler cranes and mini telescopic crawler cranes.

GGR chief executive Graeme Riley said: "It's becoming more and more common for principal contractors to ask for proof of training before allowing lifting equipment to be used on site. There is a common misconception that because compact machines are smaller they are less likely to cause damage, when in reality even the most user-friendly piece of kit can be dangerous when used incorrectly."



The first LEEA certified training schemes for glazing robots and portable workshop cranes

Who trained him then?

Spotted in Slough, UK, a man rendering the wall of a house from a makeshift scaffold which has been cobbled together from various lengths of wood and combined with ladders. This in town where all manner of access equipment is available to rent.

