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The training accreditation service of Lorry Loader Manufacturers and Importers
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# ALLIVIO Operators' Forum

At the end of June, the ALLMI Operators' Forum held its second general meeting, with many of the UK's largest loader crane fleet owners attending. The meeting kicked off with the appointment of the Forums first chairman, Steve Frazer-Brown of Milbank Trucks.

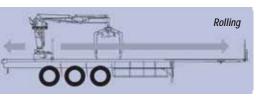
Alan Johnson, chairman of ALLMI, spoke on the issues of legislative requirements and industry recommendations for the maintenance of lorry loaders. The presentation and subsequent discussion covered areas such as loading cycle (design) groups, thorough examinations, recommended maintenance intervals, how to conduct an effective maintenance regime and the resulting benefits.

Sue Thompson and Marcus O'Connor of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), talked about working at height and falls from vehicles. They explained the relative accident statistics and the common causes of such accidents. Possible solutions were then discussed, this may be an area for the Operators' Forum to review and produce a best practice guidance of its own.

Further information on both presentations can be obtained from ALLMI.

The Operators' Forum now has representatives on both the ALLMI Technical and Training Committees, giving Forum members greater







involvement in issues relating to training, legislation, standards, and technical matters. ALLMI is involved in the forthcoming revision of BS 7121 Part 4 (Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Cranes - Lorry Loaders) and Forum members will be asked for their comments on this issue.

ALLMI general manager, Tom Wakefield, announced plans for an Operators' Forum section on the ALLMI website, with a listing of members and an online discussion area to facilitate the exchange of ideas on lorry loader related issues.

The next meeting of the Operators' Forum will be held on the 22nd November at the Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden, Coventry. This meeting will include a presentation on PUWER and LOLER by Ian Simpson of the HSE. If you are interested in attending or require further information on the Operators' Forum, please contact Tom Wakefield on 01249 659150.

#### Trailer Mounted Loader Cranes

ALLMI has produced guidance notes

for three different types of trailer mounted loader crane.

- Fixed loader cranes mounted on semi-trailers
- "Rol-loader" cranes, which are installed in such a way that the loader crane can move along the length of the trailer, with or without a load.
- Limited movement cranes, where the loader crane can be moved a limited distance along the trailer by means of a hydraulic cylinder or similar method.



#### **Stability**

- The capacity of the loader crane and the weight of the trailer will determine if the crane can be used with or without stabilisers. Both hydraulic and manually deployed stabilisers are available, some manual stabilisers are detachable, and stored on the trailer. If legs are of the detachable type, ensure that they are correctly stowed away after use.
- When a trailer mounted loader crane is equipped with stabiliser legs, whatever the type, they must always be deployed.
- Certain trailer-mounted cranes will rely on the tractor unit being coupled to the trailer in order to provide the additional weight necessary to achieve stability.
- Only a tractor unit of a similar tare weight as described on the Report of Thorough Examination should be coupled to the trailer when operating the crane.
- Some trailer-mounted cranes will rely on the trailer landing legs being lowered to achieve stability.

With so many variables affecting the stability of a trailer mounted crane, it is imperative that the operator knows how the equipment should be configured for use. Always check the operator's manual to establish how the equipment should be configured. This information can also be found on the Report of Thorough Examination.

#### Other Points for Safe Use

- Always use ladders provided to access the trailer bed. Never attempt to climb up the side of the under-run protection system.
- Where hydraulics are provided from a tractor mounted PTO pump, never run the PTO until the crane has been

- connected, and always carry a clean cloth to wipe quick release couplings before assembly.
  Contamination of the hydraulic system can be expensive.
- It is recommended that any automatically compensated air suspension systems be switched off when the loader crane is to be used.
- Always park the vehicle as close as possible to the goods that are to be transferred.
- Operators carrying brick and block type material must always ensure that the deck of the trailer is swept clean of any loose material after the goods have been off-loaded.
- Height Warning. Trailer mounted cranes that have a power source which is either crane or trailer mounted, often have the over height warning indicator mounted on the side of the loader crane. This indicator must always be checked before driving the unit.
- Before highway travel, always return a Rol-loader crane to its parking position and engage the travel lock.
- When the power source is crane or trailer mounted, the ignition key should never be left unattended with the trailer when the tractor is detached.
- Never park a Rol-loader crane forward of the trailer landing legs when the tractor unit is uncoupled from the trailer. The weight of the crane may tip the trailer.



The full text of the ALLMI guidance notes on trailer mounted cranes can be found on www.allmi.com