

Time

for action

Everyone connected with powered access knows that it is by far the safest form of reaching work at height.

It also happens to be the most efficient, the most comfortable and generally the easiest to use (a small step ladder excluded). However, it seems that this year has been particularly bad for the number of accidents, particularly those involving the ejection of operators from the basket of boom type work platforms.

Many of these have been vehicle mounted lifts that have either been struck by another vehicle or where the ground has given way under an outrigger creating a whiplash effect on the boom that catapults the operators into the air.

The latest such incident this week, could not have provided a more graphic demonstration. A 49 year old window cleaner was killed when his truck mounted boom lift was hit by a delivery vehicle. The machine tipped, and then righted itself but the sudden violent movement flicked the man out of the platform. His co-worker managed to maintain his grip on the guardrail, stayed in the basket and survived. (See page 14)

He was lucky! Both would have survived if they had only followed the simple advice opposite. Sadly we all think that such accidents only happen to someone else! You can be sure that the 49 year old head of a Hanover family also thought that.

Safety Harnesses in Mobile Elevating Work Platforms

Taken from IPAF/CPA Technical Guidance Technical Guidance Note H1/05/05

Boom Type Platforms

It is strongly recommended that a full body harness with an adjustable lanyard (used to provide restraint and adjusted to be as short as possible) is used when working from a boom type Mobile Elevating Work Platform

This includes: Self Propelled Booms, Trailer mounted boom Lifts and Vehicle Mounted Platforms.

Vertical Lifts

It is not normally necessary for personnel working from a vertical lift to wear fall protection equipment, other than in exceptional circumstances.

This would include: Scissor Lifts and Vertical Personnel Platforms.

The need for a fall protection system will be the outcome of a job specific risk assessment undertaken prior to work commencing and taking into consideration the manufacturer's operators' manual.



This man lived thanks to his harness



Two men died due to lack of a harness

Booms Yes Scissors No
For more details go to www.ipaf.org

For information on preventing falls and on the use of harnesses and lanyards in MEWPs see: HSE Information Leaflet MISC614 Preventing falls from boom-type mobile elevating platforms.

Available from the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/fallindx.htm>

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Ball Rollers

The Schaeffler Group has developed a totally new rolling element bearing - the ball roller - which it says combines the best features of roller and ball bearing technologies.

The company claims that its rolling element bearing not only saves valuable design space, but also reduces friction and enables bearing width and mass to be decreased by 20 percent.

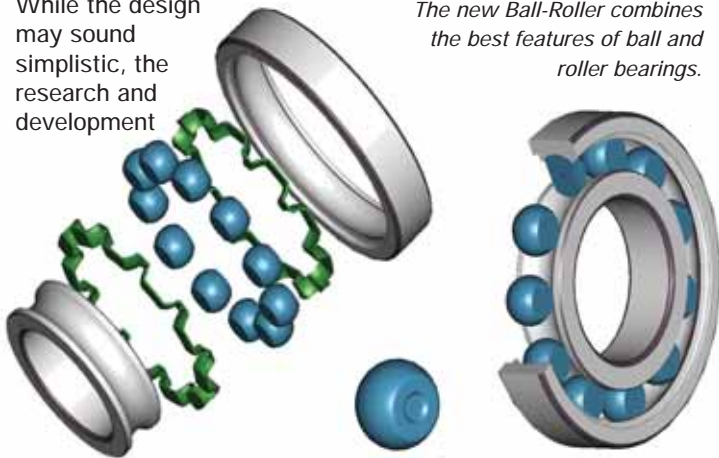
The 'ball roller' bearing incorporates bearing elements that are spherical, but which have their sides cut off.

While the design may sound simplistic, the research and development

behind this radical breakthrough has been significant. The result is a range of ball roller elements that offer all the axial load handling capabilities of fully spherical balls, but more importantly, allow overall bearing width and mass to be decreased by around 20 percent, while friction is also reduced.

Alternatively, it is possible to carry greater loads and provide a larger grease reservoir or more space for improved sealing, within the same design space.

The new Ball-Roller combines the best features of ball and roller bearings.



New Digital dynamometer offers hand held print out

Saltner Brecknell has introduced two new portable ranges of its Dillon digital dynamometer, the ED Junior and EDxtreme. Both have a working overload capacity of at least 150 percent and a safety factor ratio of up to five times rated capacity.

New Dillon EDxtreme dynamometers offer a direct print out capability including a hand held radio communicator option.

The two models offer accuracy and repeatability to 0.2 percent of capacity or better. Capacities range from 1,000kg to 50,000 kg. The 26mm high dot graphic display features a choice of measurement units including kgs, lbs and Newtons. Both models can display live weight or peak hold for tension testing applications.

The EDxtreme range has a sealed connector for serial communications. This enables data to be extracted and printed directly from the dynamometer. Alternatively it can be radio equipped to communicate with a hand held readout. The radio communicator has a range of up to 100 metres and can monitor up to four EDxtreme scales for load and total weight.



Penny + Giles now offers a PWM option on its ICT in cylinder transducers



PWM option for Penny + Giles in-cylinder transducers

Penny + Giles, has developed a pulse-width modulation (PWM) option for its ICT range of contactless in-cylinder linear transducers that it introduced last year. The transducers are intended for hostile conditions inside hydraulic or pneumatic cylinders, such as those used in steering, suspension or axle oscillation applications.

The digital signal of the PWM is more robust and less vulnerable to noise than analogue voltage signals. The option also provides a simple cost-effective way to 'go digital' as it does not require an A/D converter or other re-configuration.

The ICT transducers also come with a separate electronics package, EICT. This can be located up to 10 metres away from the transducer protecting it from the mud, sand and water associated with heavy-duty applications such as steering position actuators and hydro-pneumatic suspension systems. The EICT currently provides analogue position feedback proportional to the cylinder rod position for actuator strokes of up to 2,000mm.

The PWM option produces a TTL-level compatible signal which has a duty cycle proportional to transducer displacement. This can be converted easily to a digital value by most microcontrollers without the necessity for expensive high-resolution analogue to digital converters.

enquiries ↓

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