



*A classic application for a suspended load on a telehandler - although the rigging leaves a lot to be desired*

## New guidance for suspended loads with telehandlers

Last year the CPA and the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group published revised guidance - *The Safe Use of Telehandlers in Construction* - to help the construction industry reduce the risk of accidents and injuries when working with telehandlers. It has now released additional guidance when handling suspended loads which is available for download as a four-page stand-alone document and will be incorporated in the main document at its next published revision.

*Travelling with long load and boom extended on side slopes is not a suitable use for a telehandler*



Lifting and travelling with suspended loads is not the primary purpose of a telehandler, so when selecting equipment for this activity the first step should always be to ensure that a telehandler is suitable for carrying out the task safely. Where other equipment is more suitable, it should be used as the

*A well designed jib for roof trusses allows the truss to be carried with the boom in a stowed position*



lifting and travelling with suspended loads is generally more hazardous than lifting unit loads on the telehandler's forks.

A classic example of what can happen, involved a 17 metre telehandler being used to lift steel columns from a lay-down area, moving and positioning them for erection. Whilst manoeuvring with the boom extended to give sufficient ground clearance, the telehandler tilted to one side causing the machine to overturn. The machine only came to rest when the extended boom crashed through the roof of an adjacent building. The resultant investigation revealed that the telehandler had been traversing a slope of approximately 1:6 (9.5 degrees or 16.5 percent) at the time. The incident was clearly caused by the inappropriate use of the telehandler for this task.

The particular issues associated with using telehandlers to lift suspended loads are covered in the new four-page guidance. These are grouped under the section headings Planning, Operator Training, Lifting suspended loads and Travelling with suspended loads. A more detailed explanation of the issues covered

in this document, together with the general safe use of telehandlers, can be found in the original document, 'Safe Use of Telehandlers in Construction', which may be downloaded free of charge from the CPA Website.

In the new document, the section dealing with tyre replacement and tyre pressures has also been extended to reflect the importance of tyres on the stability of a telehandler. More emphasis has also been added to the guidance on the use of seatbelts as an essential safeguard to protect the operator should the machine overturn.

Summaries of key points for operators and for supervisors have been developed based on the guidance. It is intended that these can be adopted and adapted by any company, as the basis for pocket cards, posters or any other relevant format.

The revised version of Safe Use of Telehandlers in Construction is published by the CPA on behalf of the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group and is available to download from the CPA website at <http://cpa.uk.net/sfpsg/#Telehandlers>

## 'The Future of Construction Plant Hire'

The Construction Plant-hire Association has announced 'The Future of Construction Plant Hire' conference 2014 with guest speakers including Heather Bryant, the Health & Safety chief inspector of construction. The conference will take place on 23rd October at the Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre, near St Neots, Cambridgeshire. The theme is 'Understanding & Influencing the Future of Construction Plant Hire'.

The focus of the event is not just on the safe use of machines that we have now, but also about understanding and influencing the future of construction rental equipment. Subjects will include machine control, telematics, driverless machines and what the rental industry might look like under the government's aspirations for UK construction, as well as safety and health issues such as operator competence, ground conditions and public health issues including emissions and road transport.

Further announcements will be

made shortly regarding other speakers as they are confirmed - so watch this space. In the meantime you can register your interest in attending the event by visiting [www.cpa.uk.net](http://www.cpa.uk.net) or going direct to the page [www.cpa.uk.net/conference/#contactform](http://www.cpa.uk.net/conference/#contactform).

