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Although attendance was down on previous years it proved to be an interesting and informative meeting



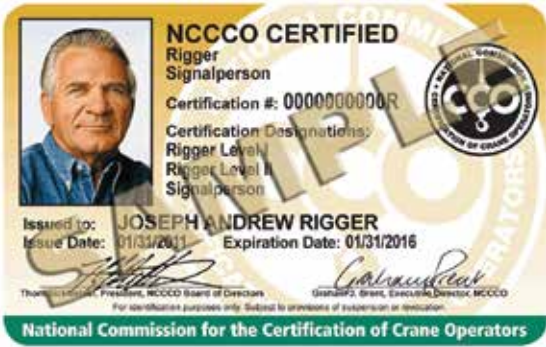
CPA open meeting

Cranes & Access attended this year's Crane Interest Group open meeting, with attendance significantly down on previous years. This was possibly due to the absence of controversial subjects on the agenda or as a result of its earlier date in September - this was certainly the case for absentee chairman Bill Frost and chief executive Colin Wood. Kevin Minton therefore stepped in as chairman for the meeting which was attended by around 40 delegates.

The much debated European Crane Operators Licence (ECOL) proposal was discussed by Haydn Steele, who started by outlining its progress. Driven by ESTA, the plan was to introduce the new licence, which would qualify as a European craft proficiency certificate, by

January 2018. The aim is to harmonise operator standards throughout Europe ensuring that they meet the minimum requirements of the industry. Initial discussions between countries such as the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and the UK had been

progressing well, but interest from Italy, Switzerland, France, Norway and Denmark has added a further eight months to the process.



The propose ECOL could be similar to the CCO scheme in the USA.

Once introduced, advantages will include operator mobility across Europe, and possibly improved standards - certainly in some countries. However, the mention of an additional and possibly higher standard than the current UK CPCS licence raised concern from crane rental delegates. All were of the opinion that the main/principal contractors would automatically demand that operators meet the higher certification, resulting in a two-tier arrangement - those with the current CPCS licence and those with the new European one. More information will be available by mid 2016.

Also discussed was the UK Construction Logistics and Cycle Safety scheme, which aims to combat deaths and injuries to cyclists, pedestrians and moped riders. Notably, the scheme is now moving out of London to cities such as Birmingham, Cambridge, Manchester and Leeds, with others likely to follow.

Also on the agenda was the Transport for London's Safer Lorry scheme, which was launched on 1st September ensuring that only trucks over 3.5 tonnes fitted with basic safety equipment will be allowed onto roads in the capital's Low

Emission Zone, with drivers being fined £50 and the company £1,000 per breach. Associated to these is the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) which aims to raise standards among fleet operations with Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Main contractors are now asking when crane operators will comply (audio devices when turning left and blind spot mirrors).

Finally, CPA technical consultant Tim Watson, outlined the revisions to BS 7121 Parts 1 and 3 with Part 1 being published this December and Part 3 next summer. He also outlined the requirements when cranes are working alongside railways, which only apply if a collapsing crane would fall within four metres of any Network Rail property.

Kevin Minton stepped in as chairman in the absence of Bill Frost and Colin Wood.



Future conference

The CPA is busy planning and organising its second CPA Plant Conference, which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 4th November 2015 at the Wyboston Lakes conference centre, near St Neots, Cambridgeshire.

With a number of key speakers already confirmed, the conference is intended as the principal point of discussion for construction equipment issues in the UK. Subjects on the agenda will include Volvo's technical developments in construction machinery, the latest developments in Building Information Modelling and the 'rehabilitation of young offenders through training' scheme which is hoped will help address the skills shortage within the construction industry.

Skanska's head of innovations Sam Stacey will give a talk about the company's innovation and development policy, which will include topics such as 3D concrete printing, while CPA's Tim Watson will introduce the new safety guidance which the Strategic Forum Plant Safety group is currently working on entitled 'Preventing Adverse Consequences caused by Unintentional Movement of Construction Plant'.

New for 2015 is an outdoor area to allow companies to display



Last year's inaugural CPA Plant Conference was well attended.

larger equipment. This will be in addition to the indoor area which will feature a number of companies including Datatag, Leach Lewis Rubber Tracks, Higher Concept Software, Towergate Insurance,

HSB Engineering Insurance and AJ Gallagher.

Delegates can register to attend the event via the CPA website: www.cpa.uk.net/conference - with ticket prices at £49.80.