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12 months for company director

Kenneth Thelwall, a director of Thorn Warehousing Ltd in the UK, has been jailed for 12 months, ordered to pay costs of £4,000 and disqualified from being a company director for seven years following the death of employee Paul Williamson, 51, while loading a spider lift onto a 3.5 tonne truck.

Williamson - a father of three - died in the street in Stockport in January 2014 when the 18 metre spider lift slipped off the loading ramps onto him. The investigation revealed that Williamson had not been adequately trained on the use of the ramps, the truck or the spider lift. There was no risk assessment in place and no safe system of work had been created for the equipment which had only been in operation for eight days. Thorn Warehousing was fined £166,000 and ordered to pay £10,400 costs but has since gone into administration.

Crane operator **Transfer Gateway** Demonstration of Skills Test

Canada's Asia Pacific Gateway Skills Table has released a Demonstration of Skills Test (DOST) for mobile crane operators. The test is intended to assess the ability of an operator to safely operate cranes, comply with health & safety requirements and industry standards. It includes a protocol and candidate guide, each designed to complement the Canadian government's existing Red Seal endorsement programme. It also includes questions for written assessments, an assessor's guide and checklists. The candidate guide provides information on undertaking the test and information on the scope of the assessment.

The Skills Table has led a committee of industry representatives to develop the test, with input from industry technical working groups across Canada, with testing completed by Canadian training organisations. The crane industry has been calling for a standard Demonstration of Skills Test to make it easier for crane operators to move between provinces, reducing red tape for employers, while improving safety and lowering costs for all involved. Efforts have been made to include the test as part of the national Red Seal assessment process.

Canadian director of the International Union of Operating Engineers Lionel Railton said: "We are pleased with the final outcome and are happy that industry partners assisted us in the development of the DOST. We remain hopeful that the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship will adopt it as part of the Red Seal mobile crane operator programme."

The Canadian Hoisting and Rigging Safety Council will be the steward for the test, having been a key strategic partner and project committee member since the start. It will also be responsible for reviewing the test protocol at least every five years. Chairman Tim Bennett said: "Over the past two years, we have been a proud participant in the development of this test.

We have brought together input from regulatory and industry perspectives to align common views. Our stewardship will provide oversight on the future development, ongoing implementation and review process, including advocating that it be included in the Red Seal assessment process."





Crane operator sues over man basket safety

A crane operator is suing ship owner Marine Transportation Services for damages for injuries, pain, suffering, lost wages, mental anguish and medical expenses, after a man basket transferring men from a platform to a supply ship overturned in September 2013. Sanford Sims claims Marine Transportation failed to maintain a seaworthy vessel or ensure safe passage from the platform to the vessel, failed to monitor weather conditions or exercise reasonable care for the safety of the crew riding the basket.

New Scottish training centre

The UK Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) has accredited a new scaffold training centre in Clinterty, Aberdeen. The £1 million facility has been funded by The Construction Industry Training Board and ASET International Oil & Gas Training Academy. It will provide training for up to 50 scaffolding apprentices a year.

CISRS auditor Trevor Donoghue said: "ASET and CITB have built an excellent centre here, and I would envisage them increasing their CISRS course portfolio before next year's annual audit visit."

ASET chief executive Atholl Menzies added: "This is an exciting time for ASET and CITB as we begin to realise our vision of creating a centre of excellence for scaffolding training in North Scotland. This facility is perfectly positioned to meet the demand for accredited training at introductory and advanced levels."

Who trained them then?

The man on the telehandler was spotted in the UK working on the tent for the new Amazon television show, The Grand Tour, staring ex Top Gear presenters Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May. The failures here are self evident.

