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A large photograph of the Tower Bridge in London, illuminated at sunset. The bridge's towers and suspension cables are silhouetted against a golden sky. In the foreground, several tower cranes are visible on a construction site.

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A photograph showing a yellow tower crane on a construction site. The crane's lattice structure is prominent, and it is set against a clear blue sky.

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Funding for Tower Crane & Hoist Installer assessors

There is currently a lack of assessors for the Tower Crane Installer Training and Construction Hoist Installer accreditation. This has meant that some installers have found it difficult to gain NVQ or SVQ qualifications in these disciplines. Furthermore, as the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) has withdrawn the Construction Related Occupation (CRO) card, this will make it even more difficult to get onto site. CSCS stopped issuing CRO cards from 31st March and all cards issued since 1st October 2015 will expire on 30th September 2017.

To help address the current problem of a lack of assessors, the CPA has secured CITB funding to support members of the workforce to become assessors. The CITB will fund the training of assessors and will ensure that participants are supported by both the CITB and the awarding organisation to achieve the assessor qualification. Funding is also available to help installers achieve an NVQ qualification at level 2 or 3.

E-mail kevin.minton@cpa.uk.net if you are interested in this programme.



Lifting operations with excavators

The Strategic Forum for Construction Plant Safety Group is updating the guidance for lifting operations using excavators - originally released in 2007. The updated guidance focuses on the planning and supervision requirements for lifting operations using excavators, supported by a flowchart which introduces a hierarchy and sequence to the planning process. This includes machine selection, roles and responsibilities, required competencies and monitoring frequencies of the operation. A section on the specific issues relating to 180 and 360 degree excavators and lifting has been added, covering factors that affect stability, ground conditions, and the use of fork attachments and tilt-rotators. A number of case studies are included that illustrate the changing environmental and load complexity which determines the classification of a lifting activity into a basic, intermediate or complex operation.

Over 100 comments to the draft guidance were submitted during the consultation period which closed last month. Many of them relating to easily resolved grammatical or technical inaccuracies, the remaining comments will be discussed and resolved by the working group at its next meeting. The finished document should be available as a free download from the CPA website by early autumn.



Haydn Steele retires

Haydn Steele, CPA's safety and training manager has retired. For many CPA members and for those across the industry, Haydn has been a high profile character and a key contact in the 16 years he has worked for the organisation. He joined the CPA from the Royal Air Force, bringing with him a strong background in training and health and safety. Since then he has made a significant contribution to training and safety for CPA members and helped many with advice on these issues, and was the main link between the CPA and CITB, not afraid to challenge them on numerous occasions to ensure that the needs of CPA members and the industry were met.

Among his many functions he chaired the CITB Health & Safety Test Questions Sub-committee, represented CPA interests on the CPCS Management Committee, managed and administered CPA Special Interest Groups, played a significant part in developing the European Crane Operator's Licence in co-operation with other European countries, and administered the Training of Plant in Construction group which encompasses the recent introduction of the Trailblazer apprenticeships.

Members who have visited the CPA at trade shows over the years may not be aware that he was the driving force in organising the CPA stands, along with other activities such as the CPA Golf Day, and most importantly setting up and organising the 'Stars of the Future' apprenticeship awards, for which his hosting expertise on stage will always be memorable.

Chief executive Colin Wood said: "We are sad to lose Haydn but understand the reasons for his departure, he has certainly left his legacy and a hard act to follow and his character and achievements will be noted for many years to come. We wish him all the best in the future."

Steele himself added: "The time has come for me to retire due to health issues from which I can now put my feet up and relax...some would say I've been relaxed enough during the past 16 years! It's been a privilege and pleasure to have worked with members and industry at the CPA. Much has changed during this time, mainly for the good and I hope my time spent with the CPA has been appreciated, having done the best for the members and industry in general. I will miss the interaction with everyone and wish you all a very prosperous and healthy future."