

Readers Letters



Vertikal Days Review

Afternoon Mark,

I was just flicking through your latest issue which has specific coverage of the recent Vertikal show and was disappointed to read your extensive review of the event and see not one mention of our purchase which we specifically timed to exhibit at the show and was the largest capacity Crawler Crane on display, the latest Kobelco CKE1350G.

We have displayed at three of the last four Vertikal shows one of our units and to be fair have had little or no coverage through your journal. As a company we don't crave publicity but on occasion of new equipment purchases it would be nice to have some recognition of our support for both the Vertikal event and indeed are continued investment in the lifting sector which your publication covers extensively.

Regards,

Anthony Quinn

Managing Director
Q Crane & Plant Hire Ltd



Mr Quinn makes a fair point, and we do try very hard to make sure that we cover as much as possible from any trade fair we attend, but space does limit us. It is unusual that we would have missed mentioning someone four times but taking his word for it we do seem to have managed it and will obviously look to correct that going forward. In the meantime, here is a photo of the crane at this years show.

CCOS letter to OSHA

The story of the letter provided by the SC&RA - the US based crane, rigging and heavy haulage association which is a member of the Coalition for Crane Operator Safety (CCOS) - in response to OSHA's draft clarification amendments to the new crane rule due to come into force in November can be seen on page seven. Here is part of a letter by the CCOS - a group of national labour, construction management, equipment manufacturers, insurance underwriters, and accredited certification organisations.

To Whom it may concern,

The members of CCOS are united in their view that, finally, after almost fourteen years since the Crane and Derrick Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee (C-DAC) published its recommendation in July 2004, crane-operator requirements should be put in place in November.

CCOS agrees and supports the change in certification by type and capacity to certification by type and/or type and capacity.

As noted in the Coalition's September 3, 2014, letter to then Labor Secretary Perez, "Union and open shop subject matter experts agree that certification by capacity provides no additional safety benefit beyond third-party verification by type." Additionally, during the March 31, 2015 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Construction Safety & Health (ACCSH), it was unanimously agreed to recommend that OSHA clarify the requirement for certification so that certification can be by type or by type and capacity. We applaud OSHA's recognition of this by the proposed change.

CCOS supports the retention of the crane operator recertification requirement and strongly recommends OSHA maintain the recertification requirements in 1926.1427(d)(1)(iv).

Recertification establishes a baseline of ongoing assessment and supports an employer's unending obligation for continuing education and training on relevant national industry standards and government regulations. Certification covered under this standard, other than military, is required by a nationally accredited certifying body. In this case, those bodies are the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). Both organizations, ANSI and NCCA, require recertification as a component of their accreditation. Recertification is also a fundamental element of the National and international standard for certifying bodies, ISO 17024-2012, ISO/IEC 17024:2012, Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons.

CCOS does not support the proposed language for employee evaluation procedures as written.

Bill Smith, Executive Vice President, NBIS, appeared before the ACCSH committee on March 31, 2015 as the CCOS representative. At that time, Mr. Smith provided the coalition's recommended changes to the proposed language regarding employer evaluation. ACCSH unanimously recommended OSHA use the text submitted by Mr. Smith as a substitute for the draft text language for evaluation. The Coalition recommends OSHA use the proposed language previously submitted.

As stated in CCOS' May 1, 2018 letter to Members of Congress, "the certification of crane operators provides undeniable safety benefits to employers, employees and the general public through a professionally-developed, accredited certification - certifications that have represented a leading industry practice for more than two decades." Accordingly, the Coalition strongly urges OSHA ignore efforts to undermine the certification requirement for crane operators and to finalize the crane rule in November.

The full CCOS letter can be viewed here

www.scranet.org/SCRADocs/CCOS_Docket_Comments_7_5_18_NL.pdf

The full SC&RA comment and letter can be viewed at www.scranet.org/SCRA/News_Release/Newsletter/Association_News/SCRA_Responds_to_OSHAs_Proposed_Crane_Operator_Certification.aspx

JCB scissor lithium battery pack

Dear Editor

These are the JCB Li-On configurations. They use the Victron Energy Blue Power LiFePO4 12.8v 90Ah Smart units. Usual fitment is four Trojan T105-LPT @ 225ah. The premium for this is £2,500.00 plus vat. So you have 2.16kWh stored vs 5.4kWh stored. Differential factor is 2.5. So you will have to opportunity charge i.e.stop the crew from working in the same ratio.

Surprisingly enough at the end of Vertikal Days despite one salesman selling 80 units JCB had not sold a single Li-On unit.



Lithium ion batteries are said to be far denser in power storage terms than lead acid and therefore would offer substantially more power and battery life. We have in the past raised the point that before going to the expense of lithium ion batteries more might be gained from incorporating direct electric wheel drive in place of hydraulic motors. If you have anything to add to this please do not hold back.

Sorry to have missed it

Dear Leigh,

As I look through the photos of Vertikal Days I seem to have missed one of the best so far, glad to see you stayed with a decent tarmac surface again it made a big difference at Silverstone last year. Hopefully you will be in the similar place next year when I will definitely attend - god willing. As I am taking the time to write for the first time I should tell you that this issue is one of your best yet! Particularly the scissor lift story and the HMF visit both right up my street of interest. But also it is good to get an industrial paper that is interesting to read and good to look at. Hope it is bringing you much wealth. You deserve it!

Good luck to your hard working team.

Bengt Jonsson

Letters like this always welcome and a pleasure, please send us more. Seriously though, we would appreciate more of you telling us what you like and what you do not like - it helps enormously. And if you do not want us to publish your comments, that is not a problem. Just email us at editor@vertikal.net

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