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The New Valla 20E/D TRX.

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on the cover:

In sharp response to the ever-expanding European wind energy sector, Liebherr has worked closely with the UK's largest crawler crane hirer Weldex on several crawler crane design projects to meet the lifting requirements of wind energy farm construction. And, with several big wind farms currently in the planning stages of construction in the UK, the company is expecting big things from the UK market in coming months in terms of its crawlers. Turn to page 17 for our full crawler crane report.



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Hewden in £12 million plant investment; Delta Rentals takes on JLG line; Palfinger buys Bison; Crane producers lay down STGO rules.

Crawler Cranes 17

Modern, hydraulic crawler cranes are doing much to shake off the crawler crane's traditional label as the 'old man' of the lifting industry. Here we take a look at the reasons why.

SAIE 2004 Review 22



C&A looks back to last month's SAIE exhibition in Bologna, Italy, and rounds up some of the highlights on display at the 40th SAIE event.

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Since the early 90s, the electric boom has undergone several significant design changes. Starting on page 25, C&A follows the many guises of this niche product of the access sector.

under the spotlight

– Holland Lift 30

With the appointment of Russon Access as UK and Ireland distributor for Holland Lift earlier in the year, the first units are now beginning to arrive on UK shores. C&A dropped in on Holland Lift at its Hoorn HQ in The Netherlands.

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The interpretation of UK crane hire rules was a hot topic of debate at the Construction Plant-hire Association's (CPA) crane interest group annual meeting held last month. And not everyone was happy. C&A reports.



Two-line Lifting 34

Very much one of those cloudy lifting industry subjects that crop up from time-to-time, the question of the legality of two-line lifting generated a

mixed response during a recent C&A poll. Turn to page 34 for the results.

Moving Diesel 35

By June next year there will be a new set of rules in place governing the movement of diesel on UK roads. And the implications for hire companies that provide on-site refuelling for cranes, access platforms or telehandlers could be significant.

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Harnesses 36

With fall from height accident figures showing no real sign of letting up, Leigh Sparrow turns to industry to lobby for mandatory wearing of harnesses on boom lifts within the EU.

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We fade to grey



On page 20 of this issue, HM Inspector of Health and Safety, Gordon Crick, explains what caused the boom of a "grey import" Sumitomo crawler crane to collapse

on a UK job site last year and the subsequent ruling once a full HSE investigation had taken place.

Following the incident, in which no one was hurt, incidentally, it soon became apparent that the crane was being operated without a valid EC Declaration of Conformity, as is required by the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 1992. In other words, it was not properly CE marked.

In addition, the operator was not properly instructed on the peculiarities of this crane when an operator hand-over occurred. Those responsible for this 'lapse in concentration', however, got away lightly, as HSE inspectors decided that 'prosecution was not in the public interest'. But, perhaps the story would have been a very different one if someone had indeed been killed in Southend-on-Sea that day.

This surely begs the question then, "exactly what does it take for action to be taken?" Well, the simple answer in this particular case regrettably points towards 'death' or serious injury.

Why, when an increasing level of "red tape" is being pushed onto companies in the name of safety, is it not in the public interest to make an example of what happens when companies flout European directives? It is not illegal to import such pieces of equipment, but it is certainly illegal to operate them without the correct conformity to the relevant EU legislation.

Why should manufacturers take notice of European directives, or why should diligent dealers in grey import cranes or other equipment bother to meet the relevant European directives when the penalty for ignoring them is not even a slap on the wrist?

In reality, most people that sell cranes, access platforms and telehandlers are very concerned about safety and complying with regulations, but in a case where non-compliance could so easily have had a tragically different result, we might have expected a tougher stance from the HSE.

Gordon Crick

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