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CRANE INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

The Steering Committee of CPA's Crane Interest Group held its latest meeting in March to discuss future initiatives and challenges affecting crane movements through embargoes. Chairman Peter Gibbs opened the meeting with a review of the progress made during 2023, including the CPA publication 'Tendering, Management, and Operations of Mobile Cranes', along with the routine updates of technical information notes.

In spite of some challenges, successes included the joint Crane Interest Group/Tower Crane Interest Group open meeting held at Vertikal Days in May, which resulted in positive strides resulting in a similar event to be held at this year's Vertikal Days event on the 12th of September in Newark.

Updates discussed:

- Progress of Network Rail's (NR) CIV0063 publication (Crane) operations on or adjacent to the Railway, highlighting key revisions agreed by NR and the CPA led working group.
- Insights about weather forecasting service Metswift, on its contributions to project planning and risk management.
- Proposals for developing guidance documents on rigging mobile cranes, operator hours and determining wind-off criteria, aiming to enhance operational safety and efficiency.

The meeting focused on challenges regarding Special Types General Order (STGO) regulations, especially regarding abnormal load transportation. Police forces across the country are adopting varying approaches, which is inconsistent, disproportionate and restrictive, leading to increased costs and delays in the sector and a growing administrative burden plaguing operators and affecting their customers. As an example, it was noted that there was a blanket ban in certain areas of the country over the Easter weekend.

To address this, an Industry Working Group has been formed to engage with all of those involved or affected by the challenges created by the existing policies. A letter outlining concerns and proposed actions will be sent to relevant authorities, including the Chief Constable of Sussex Police, the Transport Secretary, and the Roads Policing Minister. Additionally, efforts are underway to review the 2010 ACPO Guidance on Abnormal Load Movement, highlighting concerns such as embargo times and notifications to authorities.



**Abnormal Load
EMBARGO**



FIRE RISKS WITH BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

The potential dangers of a runaway fire on the larger Battery Energy Storage Systems of more than 250kw/h has been raised in relation to the increasing use of these energy systems to power tower cranes and hoists etc... especially when sited next to a tower crane or hoist base.

Although the latest generation of these systems now have high levels of thermal control and inbuilt fire suppression systems, the tower crane sector feels that some guidance on good practice with their positioning would be useful.

The Construction Industry Advisory Committee, chaired by the Health & Safety Executive, has already produced draft guidance - 'Safety of Alternatives to Onsite Diesel: Things to Consider: Onsite Li-ion batteries'.

The guidance has been produced after the Construction Leadership Council asked the HSE to work with industry to develop guidance on the alternatives to diesel as part of its Zero Diesel initiatives and although very general, the intention is to use the publication as the basis for a more targeted CPA guidance publication - initially for tower crane and hoist owners and users who specify/buy these battery systems. Support has also been sought from the National Fire Chiefs Council, various battery system storage manufacturers and the HSE.

NETWORK RAIL AND CRANE OPERATIONS

A CPA led working group was involved in a revision programme being undertaken by Network Rail (NR) on its document CIV0063: Piling, Drilling, Crane, mobile elevated work platforms and self-propelled modular transport (SPMT) operations taking place on or adjacent to Network Rail managed infrastructure operations.

The group collaborated with Network Rail to improve the publication by providing guidance aligned with the lifting sector's needs for harmonisation. This includes clarifying when it should be informed of operations near its boundary, updating terminology, and enhancing definitions related to control measures. Network Rail plans to release the revised publication - CIV 0063 - for free download in June.

With this sorted, the working group can now focus on updating the CPA documents CPA1402: Requirements for Mobile Cranes Alongside Railways and CPA1801: Requirements for Tower Cranes Alongside Railways.

Both were devised to provide the interpretation of Network Rail's CIV0063 publication which were either not available or had to be purchased by those outside of the network. The updated CPA publications will be available to download from the CPA website around the same time.

