

Hi Leigh,

I'm sorry I didn't get to see you at APEX. It's the first time I've been to this show and I thought it was very good. The only thing that I was surprised at was the lack of harness's while people were up in machines. The only company that looked to be following the IPAF Clunk Click was Wumag. I watched Ruthmann, Bronto, Multitel and Oil Steel taking people up in their machines without restraint. I think it is poor at such a high profile show. When I mentioned this to Ruthmann they said that they had no harnesses and said that it was perfectly safe as there were no moving vehicles at the show??!! Can you not shame some of these companies as they are not setting a good example?

Kind regards

Name withheld on request

We wrote back to the person concerned who owns a successful truck mounted lift business and agreed that we too were disappointed in the lack of harnesses being used at a specialist show which ought to be highlighting best practice. We also pointed out that on at least one stand, that of Bronto, they had all been wearing harnesses when passed by, we also asked if we might use his name. Our respondent replied:

I'm almost sure I was looking down on a Bronto machine from the 103 metre Wumag and noticed that the guys weren't wearing harness, although I was probably about 60 metres above them at that point. I also looked back at the picture I took on my phone but I can't tell so maybe I am mistaken. Bronto aside though, it is poor that the major manufacturers don't follow the general trend. Had I had any of our operators with me at the show I would have been trying to explain why they have to wear harnesses and yet at a show there are different rules. I would be happy for you to publish the letter. I would prefer it to be anonymous only because I have a long time to work in this industry and I'll probably end up buying from these companies in the future (When they adopt a harness policy)!
Yours.....

Dear Sir,

Not trying to nit pick but you may have made a small error on the test lift weights to be completed soon, (article on line re the new ALE crane) 15,500 tonnes at 69m sounds very impressive but could be a problem for a crane that only lifts 4,300 tonnes. Other than that I love the article and the photos and have been looking forward to seeing more information since I read about it in the last cranes and access.
Thanks for doing a great job, especially with your passionate concerns for a safer industry, I wish more people on the jobs could be as passionate as yourself.
Keep up the great work.

Warwick

Letters to the editor:

Please send letters to the editor: Cranes&Access: PO Box 6998, Brackley NN13 5WY, UK. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. We also point out that letters are the personal views of our readers and not necessarily the views of the Vertikal Press Ltd or its staff.

Dear Sirs,

Re: Fleet Statistics - published
August/September 2008 (Vol.10)

I read with interest your August/September issue in which you rank the various access companies on pages 29 and 30. You have our fleet size as being 181, where it is currently 292, comprising 242 Van mount, 8 truck/4x4 mounted vehicles and 42 crane Lorries.

Further orders are placed for November & February deliveries amounting to 12 vehicles being 5 truck mount, and 8 van mount units. We envisage the disposal of 5 - 10 Van mount units between Oct/January leaving a net fleet position of between 295 and 300 in January 2009.

Could please update your records on our behalf.

If you wish to discuss or require further information, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

John Wood
Managing Director
Access Hire Nationwide Limited

We inevitably make some errors, and had to go to print before receiving the input from some companies and are obliged to estimate. See page 52

Dear Sir,

NMT Jumpers

I read what NMT say about how carefully they manage Base Jumping activities. But in one of the images, is that the boot of someone standing outside the cage on top of the guard rail?
Regards,

Name withheld as we were unable to reach him for approval

The letter refers to one of the photo's in the on-line version, in which a foot does suggest that a man is standing on the guardrail, although in this case there is an upper frame and harness points. Ed

Dear Sir,

Please take a look at the enclosed video, good to see us Irish are keeping health and safety up to scratch!! The tower crane is lifting a Doka shutter in high winds. Unfortunate to say this is a very common sight these days with the downturn in the construction industry and threat of jobs being held over heads.

Please keep name private.

To see the video go to:

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/stories.php?id=6489>