



Health & Safety Executive
Construction Division
Head of Construction Sector: Philip White

Mr Colin Wood
Construction Plant-Hire Association
27/28 Newbury Street
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London
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Your reference:

Our reference:

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Direct line: 020 7556 2196

Dear Mr Wood

Re The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) Crane Hire and Contract Lift

Whenever cranes are used on site proper planning is essential to ensure safety during lifting. Regulation 8 of LOLER requires all lifting operations to be properly planned before they are carried out. The Health and Safety Executive has identified a continuing problem of inadequate planning and hence poor compliance with Regulation 8 of LOLER, typically where cranes are hired in to site.

Most crane hire companies follow an existing scheme based on discussions between HSE and the CPA [Construction Plant - Hire Association] Crane Interest Group. This scheme aims to make clear the difference between a Contract Lift and Crane Hire. It also aims to ensure that a crane will only be hired to an organisation that can demonstrate it is competent to meet the requirements of Regulation 8.

This letter helps explain this scheme and informs crane hire companies that are not following the existing scheme, of their duties.

In a Crane Hire arrangement the crane and operator will work to the client's instructions. The client will plan the lift, select a suitable crane, specify the slinging and signaling arrangements, supervise the lift and be responsible for the lifting operation.

In a Contract Lift the crane hire company will plan the lift, select a suitable crane, specify the slinging and signalling arrangements, supervise the lift and be responsible for the lifting operation.

To fulfill their own legal obligations, crane hire companies need to be satisfied that their potential clients will fulfill their responsibilities whether they choose a Contract Lift or Crane Hire.

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Reducing risks - protecting people

Where a client requests a Crane Hire, the crane hire company should have a system for checking that the client has made arrangements for planning and controlling the proposed lifting operations. We would expect the hire company to keep records of the checks they make and the responses they receive.

As a minimum the checks should normally require clients to provide:

- A. The name of the competent/appointed person who will plan the lift, if known.
- B. The name of the supervisor for the lifting operation, if known.
- C. Confirmation that a risk assessment has been made and that a written lifting plan, including a drawing showing where the crane is to be positioned in relation to the load and other relevant site features, has been prepared.
- D. Confirmation that the plan will be given to and discussed with the crane operator before the lifting operation commences.

When the crane arrives at the lift location the crane operator should not start the lifting operation until he has seen the lift plan and discussed it with the supervisor. The competent person has the responsibility for ensuring the lift plan is adequate but the crane operator will need to be satisfied that it covers all the necessary elements. This should not be interpreted as the crane operator taking responsibility for the planning of the job.

In a similar manner if a representative from the crane company visits the site to gather information for the rigging of the crane or to assist the client in the selection of the crane then this should not be interpreted as taking responsibility for planning the overall lifting operation.

BS 7121 part 1 to 3 Code of practice for Safe use of Cranes contains recommendations for the safe use of cranes including planning of lifting operations.

Yours faithfully



Andrew East
Principal Specialist Inspector