

Construction Plant Hire Association
27/28 Newbury Street
Barbican
London
EC1A 7HU

11 April 2012

Dear Sir

Re: Safe Use of Telehandlers in Construction

I refer to the above publication and in particular section 10.9 'Use of Lifting Hooks or Crane Jibs for Suspended Loads.

I represent the Home Builders Federation (HBF) and currently Chair its Health and Safety Forum. HBF members are responsible for 80% of the new homes built in the UK and as such have a significant number of telehandlers operating on our developments.

One of the members raised an issue at our last meeting with respect to the above section in that on home building sites it is normal to place roof trusses on a truss rack at a central location on the site, and then transport them via the telehandler to the work area when required. The particular section of the guidance clearly states that 'under no circumstances should lifting of suspended loads be carried out with a telehandler that is not fitted with a suitable lifting hook.

On reviewing the guidance and on the basis it is considered good practice, a number of our members have reviewed the use of attachments to transport roof trusses via a telehandler and have identified a number of issues which introduce additional risks to the process. We have also considered alternative solutions such as 'just in time deliveries', and truss racks designed as part of the main scaffold. However, on a number of developments due to site constraints and planning requirements, delivery lorries cannot reach the construction location and therefore telehandlers are utilised to transport materials from a central point to the place of work.

It would appear to me that the most appropriate manner to review this would be to convene a meeting with representatives of HBF, telehandler suppliers and someone either from your organisation with specialist knowledge of the subject, who would be best placed to comment on the issues raised.

I appreciate that HBF members did not contribute to the development of the guidance but it would be useful if this issue could be debated and the matter reviewed further.

I hope you are able to assist with this matter and if you can provide dates when someone is able to discuss this issue with our members that would be appreciated.

Regards

Vince Coyle

Chair HBF Health and Safety Forum

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