

**TRUST  U.S.**  
**FOR ALL YOUR HIGH  
 ACCESS BATTERY  
 NEEDS**

**MANBAT**  
 INDUSTRIAL POWER SYSTEMS  
 WWW.MANBATINDUSTRIAL.CO.UK

**SKY KING**

Offering the UK's widest  
 range of access platforms  
 from 3.9m - 103m.



[www.king.uk.com](http://www.king.uk.com) | +44 (0) 1858 467361 | [info@skyking.co.uk](mailto:info@skyking.co.uk)



# Safety group to update guidance on lifting with excavators

Back in 2008 the CPA, together with Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Construction Equipment Association (CEA) and the Construction Confederation, produced a short guide on Lifting Operations in Construction when Using Excavators. Whilst this was revised in 2009, the growth in lifting suspended loads with excavators, together with changes in both standards, has driven the need for a major revision and expansion of the guidance document.

A pan-industry working group operating under the auspices of the Strategic Forum for Construction, Plant Safety Group - funded and administered by the CPA - under the chairmanship of Kevin Minton, is working on the new draft guidance. The group includes representatives of major excavator owners, manufacturers, training organisations, contractors, the CEA and the HSE. Drafting is at a very early stage and the guidance is scheduled for publication in the first half of next year.

Before publication a 'Draft for Public Comment' will be circulated to all interested parties, with an invitation to comment. All comments will be considered by the Working Group before a final draft is prepared, with the aim of achieving a practical and useful document with industry wide acceptance. Our past experience of drafting guidance is that covering topics in the required depth results in a substantial document.

Whilst this is a useful reference for managers, it is usually too detailed for those at the 'sharp end' who need information in a clear and concise format. Recognising this, the Working Group has agreed to provide guidance in a number of briefer formats including 'key points' for supervisors and operators, and

self-contained 'toolbox talks'.

The revision will cover:-

- Lifting with backhoes, 360 degree excavators - both tracked and wheeled - and front loaders
- Planning and supervision of lifting operations
- Selection of excavators used for lifting
- Planning, supervisory and operating personnel - roles and responsibilities
- Familiarisation

Specific issues such as:

- Hazardous location issues - roads, railways etc...
- Using concrete skips with excavators
- Lifting of persons
- Use for entertainment purposes
- Use of attachments such as forks
- Maintenance and inspection
- Thorough examination

The guidance will cover the questions that anyone contemplating lifting suspended loads with an excavator should ask themselves. Just because an excavator is already on site, it does not mean that it is the most suitable machine for the job. Regulation 4 of the Provision and



use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER), requires employers to select the machine that is most suitable for a task and which will enable the task to be carried out safely.

When using an excavator to carry out lifting operations it should be borne in mind that they are primarily designed for excavating and handling loose material, rather than lifting suspended loads. This introduces several additional risks to lifting operations, that are not present with conventional cranes,

risks which will be highlighted in the guidance.

These additional risks do not mean that lifting operations should never be undertaken with excavators, but the task must be effectively planned, following an adequate site and task specific risk assessment, and ensuring that all risks are either eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level. The aim of the revised and expanded guidance is to provide assistance with this process and remove some of the confusion and myths that surrounds this topic.

## Countdown to Vertikal Days and the Stars of the Future apprentice awards 2016

The fourth annual Stars of the Future Awards will be held at Vertikal Days, Haydock Park on Wednesday 15th June. Hosting the awards and talking about his experiences is none other than Nic Hamilton, a racing driver in the BTCC and brother of F1 driver Lewis Hamilton. He will talk to the students about how he strived to become a successful racing driver and his continuous battle against Cerebral Palsy - he is a prime example of 'you can do anything if you put your mind to it' - making him the perfect host for the event.



The Stars of the Future competition is an annual award scheme, devised by the CPA to recognise talented youngsters on mechanic apprentice schemes in colleges across the UK. This year more than 900 have entered.

The awards recognise and reward outstanding apprentices who not only bring ability and commitment to their learning and their work, but who possess additional capabilities that mark them out, not only as the foundations of the future of our industry, but also potential leaders.



Lifting with wheeled or tracked excavators will be included.