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NOS Controlling Lifting Operations review

A working group has been formed by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to review the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Controlling Lifting Operations, which are used as a basis of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and used directly as the evidence requirements for Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs).

The working group, chaired by the CPA, includes representatives from the lifting sector, training providers, other associations and contractors. Broken down into the following three qualification structures, the lifting control standards have been in use with very few changes since they were developed in 2007.

- Slinging/Signalling at Level 2
- Supervising Lifts at Level 4
- Planning Lifts at Level 5

The working group has virtually completed its review with updates and minor amendments with the industry now being given a chance to comment on the amendments. Units that have been reviewed include:

- Unit VR529: Plan Lifting Activities
- Unit VR530: Plan and Establish Safety, Health, Welfare & Environmental Systems for Lifting Operations
- Unit VR531: Supervise Lifting Activities
- Unit VR402: Slinging and Signalling and the Movement of Suspended Loads

The qualification structures for both Supervising Lifts and Planning Lifts incorporate units taken directly from construction management and supervisory suites. However, these did not form part of the review.

The units, along with a feedback form, can be downloaded from: www.cpa.uk.net/cpasurveysandconsultations.

All feedback will be collated and reviewed by the working group at its next meeting in order to meet CITB publication deadlines.

Update to CAA CAP1096

As previously reported, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has deferred the implementation date of its updated document, CAP1096: Guidance to crane users on the crane notification process and obstacle lighting and marking. The intended changes will not apply until 1st April 2022 at the earliest, while the CAA runs a phased trial programme with selected users. In the meantime, crane users not involved in the trials are advised to follow the notification requirements described in CPA Technical Information Notice (TIN) 039C - which is cited within the 2013 version of CPA1096. TIN 039C can be downloaded free of charge at:

www.cpa.uk.net/crane-interest-group-publications-guidance or at: www.cpa.uk.net/tower-crane-interest-group-tcig-publications

Standards based (Trailblazer) apprenticeships update

Registrations and the number of training providers for equipment based occupational apprenticeships continues to grow, coupled with an increasing interest by employers in the taking on of apprentices. The latest figures show the following uptake so far:

Hire Controller - 63 registrations mostly in the West Midlands and South East regions. Six end point assessments have been completed since the launch of the apprenticeship in 2019.

Lifting Technician - 17 registrations, predominately in the South East and Yorkshire/Humber.

Construction Equipment Mechanic - No registrations listed. A number of providers have expressed an interest in adding it, and the CPA has appointed an apprenticeship/skills delivery ambassador to work with providers and employers, to encourage the take up and advise on the particular aspects of each of the equipment based occupations. Available training providers and assessment organisations for all equipment based apprenticeships are listed at: www.cpa.uk.net/trailblazerproviders



80 years of the CPA

Founded in 1941, 2021 marks the 80th anniversary of the CPA. Originally known as the Contractors Plant Association it was established by a group of contractors and hire companies, engaging with the Ministry of Works regarding the supply of machinery during World War II.



The first Annual General Meeting was held in September 1941, with Harold Spragg becoming the first president and chairman. By the end of the War, the CPA had accumulated 100 members and was actively advising on rental issues, while the concept of equipment rental was already established in the UK.

A significant achievement was the creation of the Model Conditions in 1951, with various updates and supplementary conditions added along the way. From the outset, the CPA has been governed by a council composed of elected representatives from the membership, with their expertise and support helping the association grow and prosper.

By 1961 more equipment was being purchased by rental companies than contractors, so the name was changed to the Construction Plant-hire Association, and the first full time staff were recruited and an office opened. The oldest member still trading is Plantire of Ashford, Middlesex, which joined in July 1941 as an excavator rental company, today it focuses on hoists and transport platforms. The second oldest CPA member still in business is crane and telehandler rental company Marsh Plant, which joined in 1950.

Membership now tops 1,700, with new members joining every week.



Crane Hire in CPA's early days

