

Timber Merchant Accident Investigation

Anne Macleod
Alison Brownlie

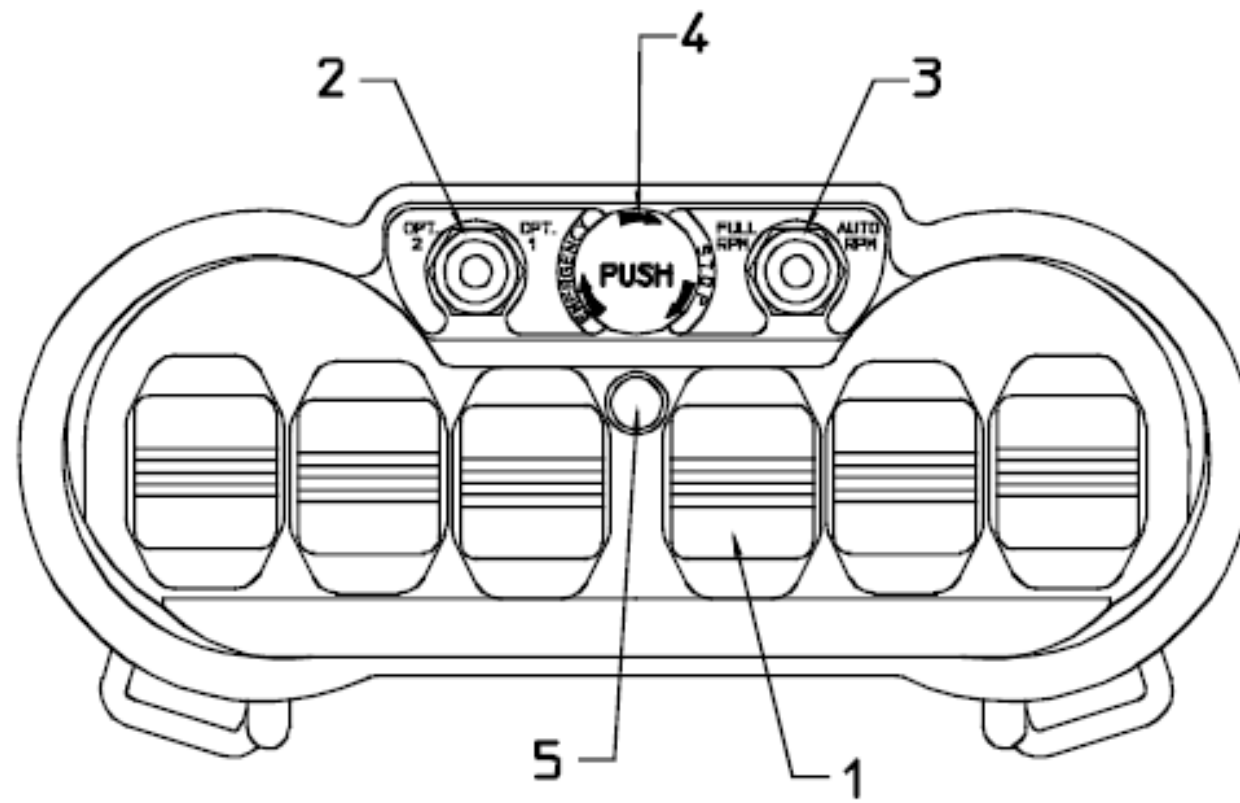
South Lanarkshire Council
Environmental Services

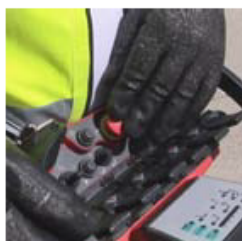
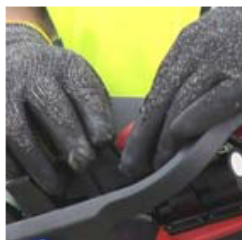
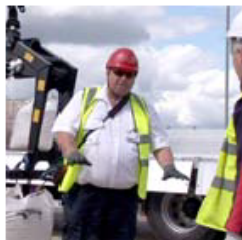
Rutherglen, Scotland



Street View - May 2018







In the last 10 years, the number of companies specifying radio remote controls has increased dramatically. Over 60% of loader cranes sold within the UK now have them fitted.

Remote controls bring many benefits, particularly in relation to the versatility and positioning options they allow the operator. However, the use of remote controls also creates some significant potential hazards. For this reason, all operators using them should be periodically re-trained and re-assessed in their use, as part of or in addition to the basic lorry loader training they receive.

This leaflet provides a brief refresher to lorry loader operators: to help ensure that the key points covered during training are carried through into the workplace; and to remind them that they are responsible for the safety of themselves and others when in charge of a lorry loader.



*The Trade Association for
the Lorry Loader Industry*

Safety Tips for Operators using Remote Controls

- Always check site rules to confirm that the use of a remote control is permitted.
- Always use the belt / neck strap provided.
- The operator must always be aware of the working area, including their proximity to the load and vehicle.
- Never stand between the load and a fixed object, such as the vehicle or a wall.
- If working with a signaller, agree signals before the lifting operation commences.
- Never walk whilst operating the remote control.
- Always use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Always ensure the remote is de-activated when not in use.
- Always store the control unit in a suitable place when not in use.



Safe Use of Remote Controls

The Trade Association for the Lorry Loader Industry

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The Trade Association for the Lorry Loader Industry

Top Tips for the Safe Use of Remotes

Always check site rules.

Some sites have specific rules in place to prevent the use of radio remote controls - for example, if petrochemicals or sensitive hospital equipment are present or nearby. In such an event, it will be necessary for you to use an alternative method such as the umbilical cord or manual levers. The umbilical cord is also intended for use in the event of a battery failure, so ensure you carry yours at all times and that it remains in good condition.

Always use the belt / neck strap provided.

The belt or neck strap is provided for several reasons, including:

- enabling the operator to make full use of both hands in operating the machine, as opposed to holding onto the control handset;
- ensuring the operator retains possession of the handset at all times;
- and preventing the handset from getting damaged or inadvertently left on-site.

Some companies have specific policies regarding using "only" the neck strap or "only" the waist belt. If this is the case, make sure you follow whatever policy is in place and ensure you are wearing the strap or belt at all times when the remote control is not in its storage position. In addition to the strap and umbilical cord and as part of the pre-operational checks carried out on the lorry loader, you should also check some other items on the remote control handset. Examples of these include: ensuring all the control lever decals are present and legible; that the emergency stop button is intact and functioning; and that you have a spare battery on charge at all times.

Be aware of the working area, including the proximity of you and others to the load and vehicle. Your own positioning as the operator is the key to this. When selecting your position, ensure you have a clear view of the vehicle, the load and its intended path at all times. If this is not possible then a signaller should be used or further persons may

be required (for example, to ensure the working area is not breached).

Never stand between the load and a fixed object, such as the vehicle or a wall. In addition to the previous point concerning your own positioning, make sure at all times you are not in such a place where an incorrect or unintended movement of the lorry loader can inadvertently trap or crush you. This includes never walking under the boom - whether a load is attached or not!

If working with a signaller, the golden rule is that you agree a set of signals prior to commencing lifting operations. This should include agreeing a way of ensuring that the operator confirms he has isolated the controls prior to the slinger/signaller approaching the load to attach or remove it.

Never walk whilst operating the remote control. A popular misconception is that radio remote controls are designed to permit the operator to both walk and operate the machine at the same time. **This is wrong!! Operating whilst walking is highly dangerous;** as the operator is unable to concentrate on where he is going and keep his eye on the load at the same time. If you need to re-position then isolate the controls before moving. Once you are suitably situated and standing still,

make a quick all-round check before re-engaging the controls and proceeding. There should be no exceptions to this!

Always ensure the remote is de-activated when not in use. In addition to the previous point, it is equally important to ensure the remote control handset is isolated at all times when not in use. Inadvertently catching the handset with a coat sleeve or other article when attaching or removing a load, or exiting the cab for example, can have potentially fatal consequences. Just simply isolating the controls can totally prevent the risk of crushing or trapping.

Always store the control unit in a suitable place when not in use. Remote control handsets are not only dangerous in the hands of untrained persons, they are also extremely expensive to replace if they get lost or damaged. For this reason, unless you are wearing the remote control handset in the prescribed manner, you should always ensure it is in its designated storage place. It is not uncommon for the crane installer to fit a specially designed docking station and even a warning device to prevent you driving away without the remote stowed. However, and whatever is fitted to your truck, **you** are responsible for ensuring your remote control handset is either worn properly or stored properly at all times.

In addition to these tips and to summarise: it should be noted that companies have different rules concerning the wearing of handsets whilst accessing / egressing vehicles and whilst attaching loads - so of course your company's safe system of work should be followed at all times. However, and in the absence of a prescribed method, a good general guide is that if you are wearing it whilst not in use then isolate the levers at all times. If you are not wearing it - put it in the cab or its designated docking station.

Remember, **you as the operator are solely responsible** for ensuring you operate the lorry loader in accordance with the training you have received and the loader crane manufacturer's instructions. Remote controls can be a great tool if used properly and safely.

If you see another operator using a remote controlled lorry loader incorrectly, please help them to protect themselves by sharing the advice contained within this leaflet.

Do it right - for your sake!

FREE web-based awareness / refresher video and Toolbox Talk template

As part of its campaign to raise awareness of the safe use of remote controls, ALLMI has produced a short web-based awareness / refresher video, as well as a Toolbox Talk template. Both the video and the template can be viewed / downloaded free of charge from www.allmi.com. Alternatively, please contact ALLMI for a copy of the Toolbox Talk, as well as a copy of the video file which can be uploaded to your company's website.



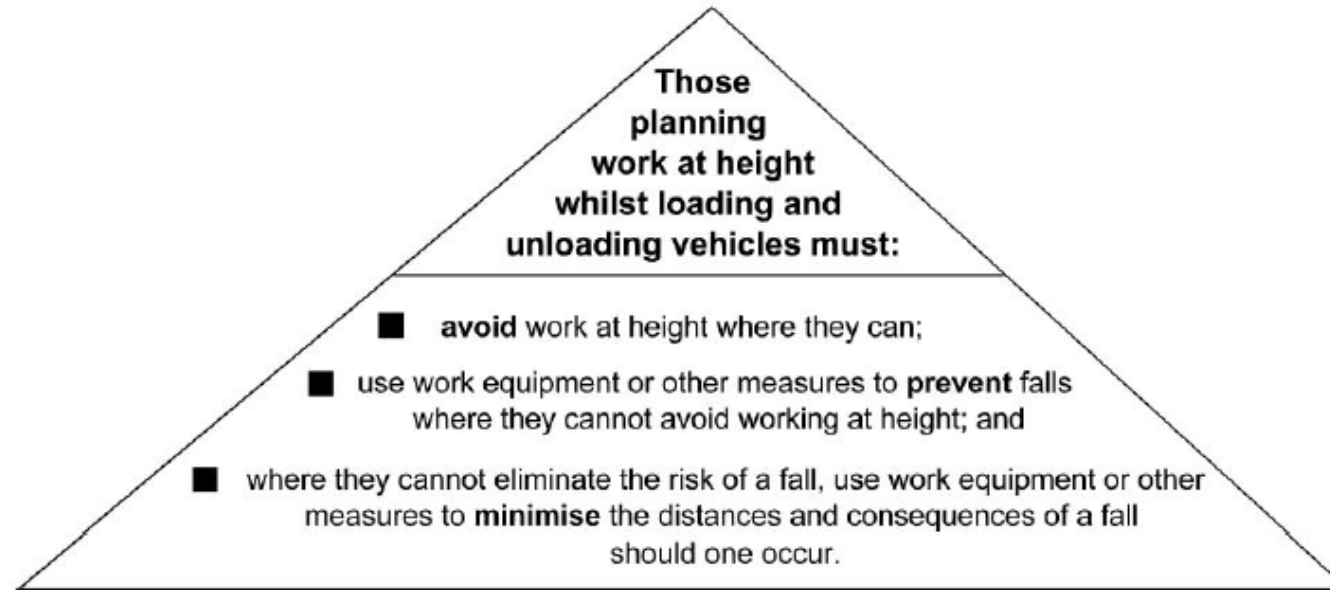
Work at Height Whilst Loading and Unloading Transport

CPA Best Practice Guide



3.0 Hierarchy For Work at Height

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 set out a hierarchy of fall protection measures to be taken when planning work at height



- Avoid work at height wherever possible and actively seek solutions;
- If this is not possible, use “collective” means of prevention such as guardrails;
- If this is not possible, use “personal” means of prevention such as work restraint;
- If this is not possible, use “collective means of protection such as air bags;
- If this is not possible, use a personal fall protection system such as a work positioning system or fall arrest system.
- Additionally provide training and instruction or take other measures to prevent any person falling a distance liable to cause personal injury.

As a primary aim, all tasks associated with work at height whilst loading and unloading transport should be reviewed to see if they can be fully or partially completed at ground level.



Grapples



Grabs



Forks

[CONTACT US](#)



Brick grabs





Form 26.1-A.1
Certified copy
- by person in
possession and control
of original

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

I,¹
.....

being the person in possession and control of the original of the copy document on which
this certificate is endorsed (or to which this certificate is attached) hereby certify that it is
a true copy of the original which is in my possession and control.

Date: (Signed)



Community and Enterprise Resources
Executive Director Michael McGlynn
Fleet and Environmental Services

Documentary Production Backing Sheet

Case Against:

Court Production Number:

Shawfield Timber Ltd

22 Backbrae Street, Kilsyth, North Lanarkshire, G65 0NH

Owner: Alison Brownlie

Address: Environmental Services, Montrose House, 154 Montrose Cr, Hamilton ML3 6LB

Telephone Number: 01698 455214

Signature:

Description of article:

.....

Where taken/found: Shawfield Timber Ltd, Unit 6 Shawfield Trade and Retail Park, Boundary Road, Rutherglen, G73 1DB

At:

On (date):

Signature(s) or Person(s) identifying article

1.

2.



Form 26.1-B.1
doquet of document
kept by a business

I, ¹

.....

hereby certify that this document is a document kept by a business, namely

²

.....

Date: (Signed)

..... ³

Charges

- ▶ Did fail to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to the health and safety of your employees to which they were exposed whilst they were at work, for the purpose of identifying the measures you needed to comply with the requirements and prohibitions imposed upon you in that you failed to carry out assessments of the risks relating to unloading vehicles and activities involving work at height; contrary to the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 3(1) and the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Sections 15 & 33(1)(c).
- ▶ Did fail to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all employees, and in particular, as far as is reasonably practicable, the provision and maintenance of plant and systems of work that were safe and without risk to health, in that your employee was required to operate lorry loader equipment without a safe system of work being in place, resulting in said employee suffering serious personal injury; contrary to the health and safety at Work etc Act 1974, sections 2(1), 2(2)(a) and 33(1) (a).

Charges

- ▶ Did fail to make and give effect to such arrangements as were appropriate, having regard to the nature of your activities and the size of your undertaking, for the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring, and review of preventative and protective measures, in that adequate arrangements to control risks arising from the unloading of vehicles and working with lorry mounted loading equipment were not made or put into effect; contrary to the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 5(1) and the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Section 33(1)(c).
- ▶ Did fail to provide your employees with comprehensible and relevant information on matters identified in Regulation 10(1)(a) and (b) of the aftermentioned Regulations, in that you failed to provide your employee with relevant information regarding the risks to his health and safety relating to his duties of unloading stock using a lorry mounted crane and any protective and preventative measures required to carry out this activity safely; contrary to the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 10(1) and the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Section 33(1)(c).

Charges

- ▶ Did fail to ensure that a lifting operation involving lifting equipment, namely the removal of pallets of decking from a flat bed lorry using a HMF1720K lorry mounted crane was properly planned by a competent person, appropriately supervised and carried out in a safe manner in respect that the activity was not planned or supervised, nor was there a competent person within the organisation to carry out such planning or supervision to ensure that the lifting operation was carried out in a safe manner and that while carrying out this lifting activity your employee suffered serious personal injury contrary to the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998, Regulation 8 and the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Section 33(1)(c).

Improvement Notices

- ▶ Appoint one or more competent persons to assist you in undertaking the measures you need to comply with the requirements and prohibitions imposed upon you by or under the relevant statutory provisions.
- ▶ Provide written statement of your policy in respect to the Health and Safety at work of your employees
- ▶ Provide information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of your employees. Ensure that your employees are provided with adequate health and safety training on their being recruited into your undertaking.

Improvement Notices

- ▶ Provide a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to the health and safety of your employees and persons not in your employment to identify the preventive and protective measures needed to ensure their safety so far as is reasonably practicable.

Also to make and give effect to such arrangements as are appropriate, having regard to the nature of your activities and the size of your undertaking, for the effective planning, organization, control, monitoring and review of the preventative and protective measures.

Furthermore you require to provide your employees with comprehensible and relevant information on—

- (a) the risks to their health and safety identified by the assessment;
- (b) the preventive and protective measures;

- ▶ Ensure that your workplace is organised in such a way that pedestrians and vehicles can circulate in a safe manner. Furthermore you have failed to ensure that traffic routes in your workplace are suitable for the persons or vehicles using them, sufficient in number, in suitable positions and of sufficient size.

Racking Report

Appendix 1

Damage Report

Location	Damage/Hazard	Risk	Remedial Action
Run A	Cantilever Base damaged 2 no.	Amber	Replace
A9	Arms Damaged	Amber	Repair
Run B	Cantilever Base damaged 15 no.	Amber	Replace
B5	Arms Damaged	Amber	Repair
B16	1 Horizontal bracing damaged	Amber	Replace
C18	Arm damaged	Amber	Repair
C16/17	Arm damaged	Amber	Repair
C15/16	1 Horizontal bracing damaged	Amber	Replace
C14	Base Twist	Amber	Refit
C11/12	2 Horizontal bracing damaged	Amber	Replace
C9	Arm damaged	Amber	Repair
C5	Arm damaged	Amber	Repair
C2	Arm damaged	Amber	Repair
Run C	Cantilever Base damaged 13 no.	Amber	Replace
Run D	Cantilever Base damaged 12 no.	Amber	Replace
D2	Arm damaged	Amber	Repair
D3	Arm damaged	Amber	Repair
D5	Arm Damaged	Amber	Replace
D7	Base Twist	Amber	Refit
D7	Arm Damaged	Amber	Replace
D8	Arm Damaged	Amber	Repair
D9	Arm dropped	Amber	Refit
D14	Arm damaged 2 no.	Amber	Repair
D17	Arm damaged 2 no.	Amber	Repair
D18	Arm damaged 2 no.	Amber	Repair
D19	Arm damaged 2 no.	Amber	Repair
E12 - Pallet Racking	Upright Damaged	Red	Replace

Location	Damage/Hazard	Risk	Remedial Action
E14	2 no. Beam locks - wrong type	Amber	Replace
E3	Bracing Damaged	Amber	Replace
E3	Upright Twist	Amber	Repair
E2	Diagonal bracing damaged	Amber	Replace
E	24 no. wrong type beam locks	Amber	Replace
F2	Diagonal bracing damaged	Amber	Replace
F5	Upright Damaged	Amber	Replace
G9/10	2 no. Beam damaged	Red	Replace
G8/9	5 no. beam damaged	Red	Replace
G7/8	Beam has been rewelded and is non-conforming with SEMA requirements	Red	Replace
G7	Upright Damaged	Red	Replace
G6/7	2 no. Beams have been rewelded and is non-conforming with SEMA requirements	Red	Replace
G6	Upright damaged	Red	Replace
G5/6	2 no. Beams have been rewelded and is non-conforming with SEMA requirements	Red	Replace
G5/6	1 no. Beam damaged	Red	Replace
G5	Upright damaged	Red	Replace
G4/5	4 no. Beams have been rewelded and is non-conforming with SEMA requirements	Red	Replace
G4	2 no. Uprights damaged	Red	Replace
G3/4	2 no. Beam damaged	Red	Replace
G3	Upright damaged	Red	Replace
G2/3	3 no. Beams have been rewelded and is non-conforming with SEMA requirements	Red	Replace
G2	Upright Damaged	Red	Replace
G1/2	1 no. Beams have been rewelded and is non-conforming with SEMA requirements	Red	Replace

Prosecution

- ▶ July 2021
- ▶ Case called at Glasgow Sheriff Court. The company formally pleaded guilty to the charge libelled on indictment.
- ▶ The company was fined £46,000, which was discounted from £69,000 due to the timing of the guilty plea.



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