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**October 2014**

Dear << Test First Name >>

Welcome to the October 2014 Height Safety News. This month we discuss Competence Complacency at both operative and management level, we look at single use slings and pre-slung loads, and we introduce the Containment Standard.



### **Competence or Complacency ?**

It is clear to me that "competence" appears to be defined by the holding of a plastic card or certification, and once this is evidenced everyone is happy. I have been recently amazed by the indifferent attitude displayed by site operatives in the use of access equipment, and by managers in their reaction. The operative above was the proud holder of a PASMA card, less than 2 years old, yet he was "very nervous" using the tower he had erected. The legs were lying beside the tower in clear sight, and yet when asked about the set up, he blamed his employer for sending poor equipment. He had been working in this manner for a number of days, uncomfortable, and in full view of everyone else.

I had to control the immediate desire to cut up his PASMA ticket. If we don't use our knowledge, we **all** loose our knowledge. Competence at every level is revealed by how we act on site.

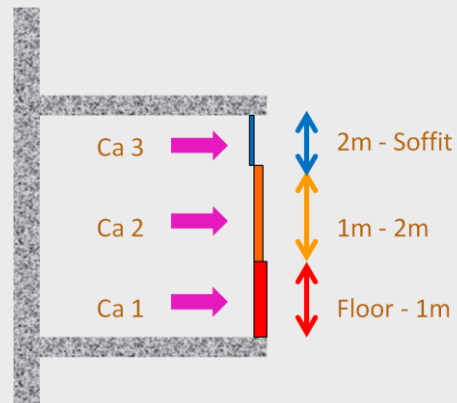


### Pre-Slung Loads.

It appears that the purpose behind "pre-slung" loads has been forgotten. My understanding is that the objective of pre-slugging a load, is to permit off-loading without the need to access the trailer. The slings need to be ordered and labelled during loading, and restrained at the trailer side to avoid tangles during transport. Then the slinger can readily identify the off load sequence and sling the crane from the ground. This would save time and be safer.

The current method, seen on many sites, simply wastes the "one use" slings, and still exposes the slinger to a potential fall from the trailer.

Perhaps the purpose got lost in the instruction ? Please contact [Higher Safety](#) if this needs further



There is now a method of specifying containment at various levels within a construction project. The Containment Standard offers the opportunity to specify different containment at three levels within the floor/storey height. This can be the same as the 20 mm toe board containment level within EN 13374, or it can be a tighter performance requirement to reflect the level of risk, or the consequence, of some material passing through.

This is proving useful for high rise projects, where a 20 mm item would present a significant hazard as a falling component.

I understand that the [Edge Protection Federation](#) intend to adopt the Containment Standard, however it is available through [Higher Safety](#).

clarity.

### **Trade specific Height Safety Training ?**

**Higher Safety** are considering developing trade specific height safety training, to arm certain trades with all they need to know to safely complete their tasks at height. An example would be a single course to train a form-worker in the work at height issues in the safe erection of false work, the use of certain access equipment, the use of Alsipercha (hangman) and a harness, and the installation of an edge protection system.

If you are interested in this concept, please contact Barney Green at [Higher Safety](#).

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