

TOWER CRANE SAFETY ALERT



Advice to Tower Crane Users - Taking tower cranes from service for extended periods

Background:

Given the unprecedented situation presently faced with the outbreak of the Corona virus, the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) is issuing the following advice to tower crane users relating to how tower cranes should be left out of service for potentially lengthy periods of time. Failure to take the crane out of service in line with manufacturer's instructions and to periodically inspect the crane whilst out of service could result in very high wind loadings being placed on the crane with consequential collapse of the jib or the whole crane.

Action Required:

If it becomes necessary to leave the tower crane out of service for long periods tower crane users should:

- Ensure that the most up to date information for taking the crane out of service is obtained from the manufacturer or supplier of the tower crane for the specific make, model and configuration of crane. This should be checked against the information recorded in the project lift plan.
- From the information provided by the crane manufacturer or supplier verify that the crane has been left in the correct out of service condition.
- With luffing cranes, it is strongly advised that the jib is parked at the maximum radius possible allowing for surrounding obstacles rather than at the minimum out of service radius specified by the manufacturer.
- With a saddle jib crane, park the trolley at the manufacturers recommended position along the jib.
- Check the function of the free slew mechanism and report any fault to the owners' or suppliers' service department immediately. Leave the crane in free slew.
- Make note of the direction of the tower crane jib in relation to the wind direction. When the jib is in free slew it should follow any change in wind direction. If the jib remains in the same position when the wind direction changes, contact the crane supplier service department immediately.
- Check the integrity of fixings of any wind sail or advertising boards.
- Secure any intruder prevention barriers.
- Hand all keys to designated project management representative and inform the crane owners service department of the key holder's contact details.

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- Put in place procedures to ensure that the base of cranes is kept free from surface water that may accumulate.
- Put in place arrangements for the crane to be periodically inspected by a competent person. If the crane driver is not available, then arrangements should be made with the crane supplier to undertake the inspections.

It is recommended that the thorough examination regime for the crane is maintained whilst remains out of service. Prior to the crane re-entering service, the crane should be inspected by the crane supplier.

Reference documents:

BS7121-5:2019 - *Code of practice for safe use of cranes - Part 5: Tower cranes*

CPA-TCIG-0701 - *Safe Use of Top Slewing Tower Cranes*

CPA-TCIG-0801- *Maintenance, Inspection and Thorough Examination of Tower Cranes*

CPA- TCIG - TIN021 – *Maintenance principles for Tower Cranes*

CPA-TCIG-TIN027 – *Tower Crane Out-of-Service Wind Speeds*

CPA-TCIG-TIN038 – *Leaving Tower Cranes Out-of-Service*

CPA-TCIG-TIN044 – *User Responsibilities for the Maintenance, Inspection and Thorough Examination of Tower Cranes*

CPA documents are available for free download from www.cpa.net.uk