



Greetings All,

Since the last VCA Crane Safety Bulletin, two significant events have occurred in the Australian Crane Industry.

The first of the events was the inaugural National Reference Group (NRG) that was hosted by CICA, the national crane association that is the same organisation that issues the Green Stickers seen on our cranes. The NRG is planned to meet quarterly, and is intended to replace the previous annual industry forums that occurred at the crane conference each year.

The NRG discussed a number of crane safety related topics ranging from traineeships through to the future national release of the VCA Pre-Cast bracing reference notes. One of the topics discussed in detail was the level of competency some people believe is appropriate to operate Pick and Carry cranes.

The unique Pick and Carry crane concept is a true Australian innovation. From early home made cranes fabricated out of surplus truck parts, through to the tractor based cranes many of us fondly remember and right up to today's modern articulated cranes, the Pick and Carry crane has been a huge success for a number of manufacturers over the years.



The world has changed a great deal since Clarke Mobile Cranes in Port Melbourne ran a fleet of home made Pick and Carry machines. What hasn't changed is the ability of these machines to work in places that traditional cranes could never get into. Machinery movements inside factory's are made easy with today's far superior cranes to the ones pictured above. Across the country, there are two Pick and Carry cranes for every traditional truck or All Terrain machine. The build quality of the modern machines is easily demonstrated by how many of them are still safely used each and every single day.

Before you even open the door, or direct an employee or colleague to go and just grab one of these cranes because there is one on the job not being used, consider for a moment if you, or the other person is 100% up to speed? Have they had the right experience and correct training? Just because the Pick and Carry crane is so popular and there are a lot of them, that doesn't mean every crane operator with a C2 Licence or above has had enough seat time to be proficient, and more importantly, the knowledge and experience to operate these unique cranes safely.



Some of the very best larger crane operators can find themselves turning themselves inside out when they step into that door above. It's a pleasure to work with people that do know how to get the very best out of the articulated Pick and Carry Cranes – it could be said that it is a real art that takes time to develop. Just like any machine, relevant competency is so important.

The other significant event to occur was Monday's launch of the new National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) across the eastern seaboard and South Australia. Hopefully the NHVR better develops their systems and processes to greatly assist our industry to safely and efficiently serve our many thousands of customers across each and every industry imaginable.

Cheers for now and have a Safe Week.

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