

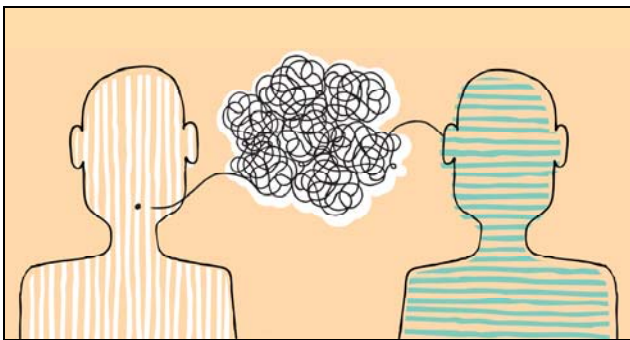


Greetings All,

It's been a while since the last Crane Safety Bulletin was written. The financial and personal pressure that has been placed on many within our industry by the failure of the new NHVR to deliver on their promises has been beyond intense.

The issuing of crane permits and other specialised heavy vehicle permits has now been delegated back to the original state regulators across the country for most vehicles we use and those different state bodies are doing their best to re-establish themselves, as well as catch up on the back log.

As with many parts of our working and personal lives, one of the key reasons that the NHVR failed was a lack of communication. Various industry groups spent countless hours over the past three years trying to inform almost anyone that was prepared to listen that there were serious potential problems with the implementation of the new national heavy vehicle regulator.



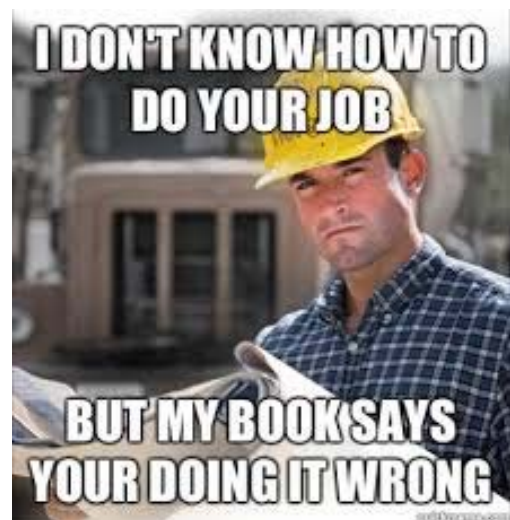
Across the board, there has been a noticeable slowing down in the amount of work available for our cranes and heavy haulage trucks. General economic conditions have not been fantastic in areas away from the mining industry. Redundancies across many crane yards are now a hard fact and the implications on safety are clear.

The last bulletin discussed that in a pragmatic sense, where three separate cases of counterfeit "Green Stickers" were discovered on cranes in use. Finding ways to cut the operational costs of a business always tend to become more prevalent when times are hard, and in some cases, we all need to be aware that cutting back proper maintenance of equipment and removing factors of safety are two ways of potentially doing that.

Whilst the NHVR and various states are working towards resolving the operational issues that have been encountered, there is still a long way to go. From an industry perspective, the combined crane associations are doing all that can be done to re-engage and work towards resolution.

So it is an opportune time to remind everybody within our industry to keep safety around cranes and other associated items of plant at the foremost part of their mind. When everything else seems to be going at a thousand miles an hour, it can be easy to tune the mind out of the most basic safety issues. That can really be something as simple as forgetting to put a hard hat on when getting out of the gear truck.

Communication between employees and employers, especially with regards to safety matters, can quickly escalate into tension if both parties can't agree on the importance of the matter. What one person sees as a minor speedbump may be interpreted by the other as a defining moment. Some of you that work in the mining industry or other major industrial sites may have struck some extremely 'enthusiastic' safety officers who don't always share our views on the best way to get a job done.



If that is something that happens on your site, no matter how big or small the issue is, the only way that will work for both parties is to discuss the issue and find some middle ground. You might not get your way, or even get 50% of what it is that you were arguing about in the first place, but a shared solution is a far better outcome than a window seat home or being removed from the job.

The same can be said in our lives outside of work as well. Communication today seems to be an art form more than a vital tool for life. Email, text messaging, facebook and all of the other electronic ways of communicating with others can be great. But there is no real replacement for actually sitting down with someone and having a discussion. If only it was that easy!

Cheers for now and have a Safe Week.

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