

Greetings all. In this issue we want to discuss manufacturers' **Operators Manuals**.

There's an old saying....*if all else fails, read the manual*. This saying is of course, tongue in cheek. We should always read the manual before operating anything that is new to us.

Hardly a day goes by when we aren't reminded about our responsibilities to comply with Work Health and Safety laws, local regulations and a host of related safety documents like SWMS, JSA's, Safe Operating Procedures and work-site policies to name a few.

These are all important documents, but there is another one that is often overlooked, – the manufacturers' Operators Manual for the piece of equipment we are using.

The equipment could be a crane, EWP or something smaller like a power tool. Whatever the equipment, we have a responsibility to use it safely and in the manner the manufacturer has designed it for.

And that is what the Operators Manual should tell us. If we are not sure how something works or the correct way to use it, read the manual.



Crane controls and LMIs are complex items. Operator Manuals will help you understand how to use them safely and interpret readouts.

On sophisticated equipment like a modern crane, manuals can be very large documents. They should be available to the operator for reference at any time required.

When an item like a new crane is delivered, the manufacturer or seller has a responsibility to familiarise the owner and operator with the crane. This includes supplying an Operators Manual and explaining the ins and outs of the equipment. This can often take days depending on the unit.

This is all good for the initial operator, but what about at a later date when a new operator to the crane is needed. This operator must also be thoroughly familiarised with the unit, so it is very important that the Operators Manual is available to all operators for the life of the crane.



All cranes are different. Operator manuals are a necessary and legal document to be supplied with all equipment.

No one can be expected to remember everything that's in an Operators Manual. And that is why it must be available for reference whenever necessary. If your crane doesn't have one, contact the supplier for a replacement.