



Victorian Crane Industry Consultative Committee

Minutes of the **Crane Industry Consultative Committee** meeting, held at CFMEU Training Centre, Sabre Drive, Port Melbourne on the **4/10/13**.

Present

- Tom Quinlan – Quinlan Cranes
- Tom Smith – Williamstown Crane Hire
- Barry Stockdale – P&D Cranes
- Geoff Fletcher – TiltLift
- John Stach – Liebherr Australia
- Rob McCarthy – Bullivants
- Brent Stacey – VCA
- Barry Dunn – WorkSafe
- Steve Kelly – WorkSafe
- Rob Graumans – CFMEU / CICC Co-Chair
- David Waterfield – VCSA/Australand
- Barry Heywood – ESV
- Mark Drury – WorkSafe
- Phil Neville – SpanSet
- Rob Oldfield – ESV
- Brandon Hitch – CraneSafe
- Garry Barker – Manitowoc Crane Group
- Terry Cameron – Craneworks
- Les Kriesfeld - WorkSafe

Apologies

- Andrew Taylor - WorkSafe

Welcome/Introduction

Rob Graumans as Co-Chair welcomed all to the meeting at 0759.

Previous Meetings Minutes

Were distributed by email and some copies on hand for perusal, if attendees could bring along a printed copy, that would be helpful.

Design Checks

Noted by Les K that there were no discussions in the wind.

VicRoads

- No attendee was present for any report to be made.

No Go Zones

Two incidents since the last meeting.

- A remote controlled Self Erecting tower crane contacted powerlines in Northcote. Dropped out electricity supply sub-circuits.
- A remote controlled tower crane contacted powerlines in Toorak, operator reported crane malfunction; subsequent crane inspection discovered no known issues.
- Discussion at recent VTCCC centred on the regulators and Unions preference that tower cranes that have the ability to be fitted with a cabin or operators station are commissioned with the cabin or O/S fitted and operational.
- WorkSafe raised some differences between cranes being operated by remote control.

WorkSafe

- Restructuring still occurring. WorkSafe self-described as being in a holding pattern until those actions are finalised. Redundancies still occurring.
- There is an internal view that there is some money shuffling occurring between different Gov't departments.
- There is a current focus on Pre-Cast activities at present, some non-conformances noted.
- Major Inspections for cranes; part of WorkSafe's normal operations. Where cranes are not recognised by inspectors, they will be closely looked at.
- Discussion around recent incident @ Geelong wharf; Was licencing compliance an issue that was followed up on? No answer was known, Barry Dunn committed to getting an answer.
- Les K noted that the AMSA and WorkSafe have an MOU on conducting the business of safety regulating.
- It was agreed by the group that all crane operations should be conducted by holders of HRWL's.

Man-box

- Noted that Allan Beacom had contacted VCA asking why this was still a standing agenda item.
- A response was returned from the VCA that the crane industry still feels like the issue is topical and relevant.
- Noted by a WorkSafe inspector that until the standards are changed, the opinion of VWA will not alter.
- Industry noted strongly that is not a standard's issue. It is an issue only in Victoria due to VWA's interpretation of the standard.
- Les K noted that VWA is always approachable and willing to have dialogue on this matter. Les also noted that at the end of the day, VWA still see redundancy as the line in the sand.
- Industry noted this as being a true statement and thanked Les for his continual dialogue.
- Discussion ensued on the fact that no notice has been issued on a crane that doesn't comply with VWA's interpretation of the standard and their subsequent Alert.
- A recent notice that was issued on work methods rather than the crane was discussed.

- It was noted that in the engineering report of a modified crane, it clearly states that the modification adds nothing in the way of safety, but has been made to appease CFMEU/VWA.
- VWA noted that cranes that have been discovered using boxes that have not been modified have been swapped out for cranes that do satisfy the VWA interpretation.
- It was noted by an attendee with a strong safety background that he would rather be suspended by a six month old crane rather than a 40 year old crane.
- A great and lengthy discussion followed which was passionate, animated and informed.
- Rob G as Co-Chair ended the discussion and instructed the meeting to move on.

Victorian Construction Safety Alliance

- The last VCSA meeting was cancelled as the WorkSafe building where the meeting was to be conducted was evacuated.
- Items discussed within the group have been PreCast, and the Lift Industry.
- Noted that ESV recently hosted an information gathering meeting on powerline safety and NGZ's which was attended by various persons from VCA, CFMEU, WorkSafe, CCF, CraneSafe.

CraneSafe

- Brandon noted that an electronic assessment tool is currently being trialled.

Incidents

- A recent tower crane dismantle by a 450t mobile crane was noted as having to be cancelled halfway through as inclement weather came in. Discussion followed on keeping abreast of the most recent weather forecasts as part of job planning.
- Noted that there had been a high number of non-crane related general construction incidents due to the recent extended periods of high winds.
- A dual lift between a Tower Crane and a Pick & Carry crane resulted in the panel striking the mobile crane. An animated onsite discussion was the result that was noted as being typically old school.

General Business

- A question was asked of the meeting how the Crane Industry traineeship was progressing. Rob G noted that it was a concept that was ready to go in Victoria through the good work of his predecessors, The CFMEU training unit and the VCA, yet the national Union executive was taking the reins from a national perspective. There was a major national CFMEU conference to be conducted in the week following this meeting, where the topic would hopefully be on the table for discussion.
- It was noted that the information discussed at the recent meeting between industry stakeholders on NGZ's etc was important to get across to RTO's and other basic levels as a way of getting the information into the minds of people at the start of their careers.
- The success of the recent national Crane Conference was noted, including the crane display and the demonstration of a simulated rescue from heights.

- Permit to work issues were discussed from a powerline perspective. ESV attendee noted that ESV was happy to give out specific information for different sectors and more than willing to do so when approached.
- A question was asked of the Co-Chair – Was Manbox still on the agenda as a standing item ?
The answer was yes.

The meeting was closed at 0925.

Next Meeting to be held Friday the 6th of December, 2013, at CFMEU Training Facility, located at 41 Sabre Drive, Port Melbourne, commencing 0800 sharp.

Reminder for all attendees that the CICC meetings now are every second month, with the Tower Crane group alternating in the other month.

(Post meeting) - Representatives from the NHVR have requested that they be included as a stakeholder. The NHVR will be taking the role as the national regulator for all vehicles and licencing, permitting etc. for vehicles >4.5t GVM at some time (yet to be mandated) in the future. Rob G as Co-Chair has indicated there are no issues with that request.