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FAO Miss F Butler

HM Coroners Office
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8RA

05 September 2024

Reference: [REDACTED]

Dear Miss Butler,

We are writing this response following the sharing of the Regulation 28: Report To Prevent Future Deaths following the sad incident involving Mr Jason Vaughan Holland.

AITT (The Association of Industrial Truck Trainers) is a member of the ABA (Accrediting Bodies Association) along with RTITB, ITSSAR, NPORS and LANTRA of which the Regulation 28 was sent to.

The ABA is responsible for the categorisation of material handling equipment and the subsequent testing of operators to a standard all members agree on. ABA does not publish training standards or produce training materials or courses. This is the responsibility of each individual accrediting body.

The use of basket-to-basket rescue has always been used as a last resort and in some circumstances this operation would be virtually impossible to complete and is dependent on the site specifics. Basket to basket rescue would involve having 2 MEWPS on site,

- that operate at the same height to allow the transfer of the injured person
- allow access for both MEWPS to the area where the work was taking place
- individuals having the physical ability to move or transfer the injured person from one basket to another whilst ensuring all personal, including the injured party were secured, possibly with a harness and twin lanyards, to prevent a fall, whilst keeping the gates open on both machines (that are designed to stay closed during operation).

Each basket or MEWP has a safe working load and a maximum number of people that can be in the platform. Having too many people could overload the MEWP used to perform the rescue, causing further complications or an additional emergency.

AITT can confirm to the Coroner, that as part of the training and testing of a MEWP, the operator is trained in how to perform emergency lowering – this is explained, demonstrated and practiced by each delegate.

The Association of Industrial Truck Trainers

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The operator is shown how to operate from the ground controls to test the functionality and how to use them in an emergency should the platform controls be unable to be used either through malfunction or operator inability. The operator is then shown how to lower using the auxiliary or emergency controls, which will vary between different MEWP's.

Once practiced and the instructor is confident the operator can perform the operation, the operator will be shown how the controls work on the platform and if the MEWP has the capability, how to lower in an emergency or malfunction.

As an association we are not able to state if an individual is competent, as the test and course accredited by the association is for basic operation, and competency comes from a number of elements such as skill, knowledge, ability, training and experience.

AITT also firmly believe that any operation involving work at height should follow the Work at Height Regulations 2005, in particular Regulation 4 in relation to the employer ensuring that work at height is properly planned, appropriately supervised and carried out in a manner which is so far as is reasonably practicable safe. The planning should include the selection of work equipment in accordance with regulation 7 – which looks at the selection of work equipment, conditions, distance and consequence of a fall, duration and the need for easy and timely evacuation and rescue in an emergency.

Our recommendation would be that any person who is planning and managing any work at height, should be competent in all aspects of the operation including the need to carry out emergency escape, evacuation and rescue with appropriate levels of first aid to deal with any emergency.

AITT would follow any recommendations that the Coroner makes, to prevent any future deaths, however in terms of practical based rescue scenarios, the answer we feel lies not with the operator but with the person managing these operations.

There are safety devices, such as secondary protection systems that can be fitted to MEWP's or that can be specified from a hire company when renting. These devices can prevent the crushing of an operator due to involuntary operation. If the manager was aware of these systems, it may have prevented this fatality.

Yours Faithfully

Association Managing Director

Association Vice Chairman