

## Due diligence and Standardization

**Due diligence** These two words are beginning to have a major impact in all areas of business and industry. It is becoming a necessary practice to provide objective evidence of due diligence for nearly everything we do. Occupational Health and Safety defines due diligence as “doing everything reasonably practicable” to prevent a failure or injury. OH&S Regulations North America wide are in the process of revising the content of their regulations and the Act.

In most regions OH&S is demanding more of the employer by making them “**explicitly responsible**” for providing proper objective evidence of due diligence for worker safety at the work site. This also has a major impact on supervisors as they can be deemed as the employer and therefore can be held responsible. What this means for operation of overhead lifting equipment, is that there must be documented procedures implemented for daily crane operation, rigging applications, inspections, training, monitoring worker performance and continuously training, internal audit, non-conformance and corrective action. Having these procedures in place and maintained will ensure compliance to applicable legislated requirements, worker safety and provide objective proof of “Due Diligence” that the employer is pro-active to safety at the work site.

Within the next few years it could easily become an industry practice to provide objective evidence that safety-training material content is compliant to applicable legislated requirements. Independent third party audits may also become a requirement to ensure training material content is developed in accordance to applicable standards and codes. In the event of a serious injury or fatality, if negligence can be proven that the training material content is incomplete or incorrect, the training vendor together with the employer could be held liable.

Having the proper due diligence records in place for crane operations, rigging applications, and training for workers, will ensure compliance to the standards, and a safer work environment for workers.

**Standardization** is fast becoming a major factor for providing safety training for multi-site organizations. Most large organizations have commonly made each of their sites independently responsible for selecting a training vendor to provide safety training for their overhead crane Operators. The problem with this concept is, there is no consistency and very little traceability for monitoring and maintaining the safety training by the corporate office. Which can result in costing the organization millions of dollars a year in unseen costs, i.e. worker injuries, WCB rate increases, down time, abuse of equipment, loss of a customer, fines and lawsuits, etc.

Companies are beginning to realize the necessity for developing a standardized training policy that is applicable to all sites. This would relieve the site managers of the responsibility of qualifying the vendors, as the corporate policy would state the minimum content requirement and duration of training required.

Standardization of the safety training is also a very time-efficient and cost-effective way of ensuring the training is consistent. It also provides the corporate office with traceability of the training and in turn it also is objective evidence of due diligence for compliance to applicable legislated requirements.

## Benefits of Standardization

- *Standardization* is a single source of training material content, that is compliant to all types of lifting equipment and applicable to recognized national and international standards.
- Standardization is a huge benefit to the world economy in that there is one set of policies; objectives and procedures that is generic to all lifting equipment and the only additive required is instructions that are specific to each equipment application.
- To a large worldwide company/organization it could mean a savings of millions of dollars a year. If they had a single safety-training program that was applicable to every single location, it would provide total traceability ensure compliance and continuity. The immediate result would be reduction in all related costs to this equipment. Example: less injuries, lost work hours, less downtime, damage to equipment, insurance claims, lawsuits, etc.
- ACTI courseware content is designed to all requirements for standardization and is audited to all applicable standards and codes.