



CONSTRUCTION PLANT HIRE ORGANISATIONS

ADVANCE NOTICE OF HSE INITIATIVE

During March 2003 HSE Inspectors will be visiting construction sites throughout East and South East England checking that risks from **mobile construction plant, vehicles** and **lifting operations** are being properly controlled.

These visits are part of a national rolling programme of blitzes planned by the HSE Construction Division. HM Inspectors will adopt a rigorous approach to checking on the safety of mobile construction plant, vehicles and lifting operations. Work may be prohibited and prosecution action taken where there is serious failure to control risk and / or comply with the law.

The matters that may be covered during the visits are summarised below. As a construction plant-hire organisation you have a responsibility for some of these matters eg the provision and maintenance of **critical controls, visibility aids** and **warning devices**.

I would urge you to review and reinforce the steps you usually take to ensure that the plant that you provide is safe.

MATTERS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED DURING THE VISITS

- **Safe Site** - availability of a traffic management plan, separation of plant and vehicles from pedestrians, the control of reversing or slewing operations, use of high-visibility clothing and the maintenance of traffic routes
- **Safe Plant and Vehicles** - the maintenance of critical controls, warning devices and visibility aids etc., authorisation to drive plant and vehicles, all round visibility by provision and use of sufficient mirrors, CCTV etc, roll-over protection and seat belts.
- **Safe Driver** - possession of training certificates that have been checked, operation of plant and driving of vehicles in a safe manner, induction carried out including information on the traffic management plan.
- **Safe Lifting Operations** - Inspectors will wish to check: whether it is a "crane hire" or "contract lift", who is appointed to plan the lift, who is supervising the lift and the presence of a lifting plan / method statement. Particular attention will be paid to lifting plan information about the lifting tackle to be used, the competency of those persons given the task of slinging loads and the specification of the mobile crane outrigger support.

If you have any queries about this initiative please contact my colleague Philip Poynter on 01582 444200

Philip White
Head of Operations
Health and Safety Executive Construction Division
London East and South East Region