



Construction Plant-hire Association
Tower Crane Interest Group



Tower Crane Technical Information Note

TIN 044

User Responsibilities for the Maintenance, Inspection and Thorough Examination of Tower Cranes

1. Scope

This Technical Information Note deals with the responsibilities of tower crane hirers (users) for the maintenance, inspection and thorough examination of tower cranes.

2. Regulations

The maintenance, inspection and thorough examination of tower cranes are covered by:-

- *The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA). Regulations 2 and 3*
- *The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER). Regulation 5*
- *The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER). Regulations 9 &10*

3. Responsibility

The supplier (owner) of a tower crane has a responsibility to provide a crane that is in good condition, free of defects and safe to use, when the crane goes out on hire. This forms part of their general HSWA Section 3 duty.

Documents that would assist the crane supplier to demonstrate that they have provided a crane that is safe to use are:

- Pre-delivery inspection records carried out by the crane owner in their yard (See Clause 7.2 of BS 7121-2-5:2012)
- Post delivery check records (See Clause 7.3 of BS 7212-2-5:2012)

Once the crane has been handed over to the user, both PUWER and LOLER are very clear that the responsibility for ensuring that the maintenance, inspection and thorough examination of tower cranes are carried out, lies with the user of the tower crane. In the case of a hired-in tower crane the actual undertaking of maintenance or thorough examination is often delegated by the user to the crane owner. The user however, retains the legal responsibility for ensuring that both maintenance, including the rectification of defects, and thorough examinations are carried out.

Where the carrying out of maintenance and through examinations has been delegated to the crane owner it is essential that the crane owner is informed of any breakdowns and faults, together with exceptional events such as jib clashes, overloading and shock loads; so that the appropriate action can be taken.

Some tower crane users employ a third party inspection body to carry out thorough examinations of hired cranes, in addition to the thorough examinations carried out by the crane owner. Where this occurs, it is essential that any defects found during the examination are immediately notified to the tower crane owner so that they can be rectified. **If the crane owner is not aware of such defects they cannot rectify them!**

It is good practice to arrange for the tower crane owner to receive copies of thorough examination reports directly from the tower cranes user's inspection body to minimise any delays in any defects being rectified.