

# Association of Lorry Loader manufacturers and Importers

## Guidance for Lorry Loader Installers and Operators

ALLMI Guidance Note 005 03 September 2003



The Association of Lorry Loaders and Manufacturers (ALLMI), being the leading organisation in the UK representing the Lorry Loader industry, has produced this Guide to provide information and advice to companies involved in the purchase, installation and operation of Lorry Loaders. This Guide is an attempt to ensure that when installing a Loader Crane to a chassis and subsequently when operating the vehicle, useful information is readily available. To ensure a quality of build that will meet all the legal obligations of the installer, owner and user of the equipment. This may affect the initial choice of LOADER CRANE and help to avoid subsequent problems both legal and technical.

### **The Operator**

Operators have a duty to operate loader cranes safely; these duties can be made extremely difficult by ill-informed specification choices which can put pressure onto an operator to use a loader crane at the limits of its operating capability and sometimes encourages improper use. This not only affects the safe use of the equipment but can also reduce its life expectancy. Only fully trained driver/operator should be allowed to operate the lorry loader. ALLMI Training Ltd, offer full loader crane training, for further information. Ensure an operator's manual is provided with the loader crane, which is fully read.

### **The Installer**

It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that the loader crane is correctly mounted, that the relevant EHSRs (Essential Health & Safety Requirements) have been considered and the appropriate CE documentation is completed. The installer must follow the recommendations or both the loader crane manufacturer and the chassis manufacturer. An incorrectly mounted loader crane may be unsafe to use and its warranty will be invalidated, it may also effect the safe use of the vehicle to which it is installed and effect the vehicle warranty.

The installer should nominate a Responsible Person who will compile a Technical File of the complete build. This Technical File must be maintained and be available for inspection by authorities for a period of ten years. Stability and axle load calculations must be carried out. A dimensional drawing must be produced as a record of the build. The helper frame must be designed in conjunction with the chassis manufacturer requirements. See the ALLMI Code of Practice for further details.

### **Choosing a loader crane**

Before making a purchasing decision, consider the following.

- The reach required.
- The weight to be lifted at the required reach.
- If the Loader crane is to be used with an attachment.
- The weight of any attachments, how they affect the capacity of the loader crane and vehicle.
- The expected life of the loader crane, see ALLMI guidance note 001.
- Life Time Costs.
- The remaining payload of the chassis once a Loader Crane is installed.
- Operator position, Ground Control, Platform, Top Seat, Remote Control.
- The type of lift, lifting cabins may require a control system with higher precision than a grab crane.
- Check for the availability of parts and service facilities.
- The age of the loader crane
- Re Sale Value of the equipment.
- If an oil cooler should be included in the specification.

A checklist to help with these decisions is available from ALLMI. Remember the salesman at a truck dealer or bodybuilder may not be an expert on loader crane selection. If you have any doubt then contact the loader crane manufacturer, dealer or ALLMI member directly.

## **Second Hand Loader Cranes**

A Loader Crane sold on to another company will be regarded as New Work Equipment, and as such the purchasing company will have to ensure that the equipment meets the provisions of PUWER and LOLER before being put into use. Contact the loader crane manufacturer, dealer or ALLMI member directly to check that the Loader Crane meets the requirements of PUWER and LOLER. See ALLMI Guidance Note 002

## **Refitting a Loader Crane**

If a loader crane is removed from an existing chassis and fitted to another chassis, this will be regarded as New Work Equipment, and as such the purchasing company will have to ensure that the equipment meets the provisions of PUWER and LOLER before being put into use. Contact the loader crane manufacturer, dealer or ALLMI member directly to check that the Loader Crane meets the requirements of PUWER and LOLER.

## **Choosing a installer**

It would be expected that the installer would have access to the chassis manufacturers Body Builder Guide Lines and installation instructions from the crane manufacturer. The installer would be expected to work within a quality procedure, use coded welders and traceable materials. The finished Loader Crane Installation must be subject to a thorough examination and test for which calibrated weights are required, a test area and a competent person to conduct the examination and test. The competent person may be an in house employee, or an experienced employee of an loader crane supplier; or an insurance company inspection engineer etc, but in all cases sufficiently independent and impartial to allow objective decisions to be made. The competent person will have adequate knowledge of the equipment.

Check that the installer has the knowledge and equipment to commission and calibrate any crane bound systems. Many new cranes have complex programmable safety systems, which must be set before the crane, can be placed into service.

Ask if the installer is an ALLMI member.

Remember:-

- An incorrectly mounted loader crane is not only unsafe but can also render the vehicle unsafe.
- The safe use and life expectancy can be greatly reduced if the loader crane that is incorrectly calibrated.

## **Reference Information**

BS EN 12999	Cranes – Loader Cranes
LOLER	Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations
PUWER	The Provisions and Use of Work Equipment Regulations
ALLMI	Code of Practice for Installation Application and Operation.
BS 7121	Safe use of cranes, Parts 2 and 4.

## **Disclaimer**

*This note is for guidance only, it should be studied and the information applied with the assistance of expert advice as necessary. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, but no legal liability can be accepted by ALLMI for any errors or omissions, nor for any consequences thereof.*