



Message from the President

The FEM period 2004-2006 was affected by implementing the new FEM structure approved in 2004 in Dresden.

Following the General Assembly 2004, the FEM trustees undertook the necessary steps for the registration of FEM as an international non-profit association under Belgian law. FEM obtained this new legal status on 25 April 2005.

In December 2004, the FEM Board agreed with the creation of a new Executive Committee to replace the Coordination Committee. This new body, comprised of National Committee and Product Group Secretaries, became operational in March 2005 and discussed several issues such as the review of exhibition endorsement policy, the update of publications, the need for statistics, the FEM Congress, EU monitoring, the operating rules and associate membership. During subsequent meetings the issues were discussed in depth. Policy papers were developed on the basis of which further work will be undertaken, for example monitoring and lobbying on the EU directives which impact on the European materials handling sector and FEM support for major exhibitions in Europe and beyond. Regarding EU directives which impact on FEM business, a major concern is the Outdoor Noise Directive. FEM successfully lobbied for the inclusion of lower noise limits for heavy equipment which was technically unable to meet the second stage limits in 2005. For the future, we will also be looking at the directives on Machinery, Exhaust Emissions, Physical Agents and Electronic Waste.

The FEM Board is also planning to make a high-level political visit to the European Commission in the near future. This visit will focus on the particular challenges facing our industry at the moment. At the same time, FEM will give its position on the high-level strategic discussions on the future of the mechanical engineering industry

in Europe being conducted by Orgalime with EC officials and representatives of Member States. At the CeMAT 2005 exhibition in Hanover, FEM was well represented. A FEM desk was opened at the booth of the German National Committee (VDMA). Many visitors were informed about FEM activities and, in particular, FEM technical rules. A CEO breakfast was organised for FEM industry leaders who discussed in an open atmosphere the current challenges facing the European materials handling industry.

FEM was also represented, albeit on a smaller scale, at the Manutention 2006 exhibition in Paris.

For the future, we will continue this activity, and FEM is currently evaluating its support services for MOVINT and possibly other exhibitions in Europe and beyond. During CeMAT and Manutention, contacts were made with potential new FEM member associations from the materials handling industry in countries such as China, Argentina and Turkey. Manufacturer associations from the port equipment and casters & wheels sectors also had talks with FEM officials. Some of these associations (such as PEMA, ECMA and ISDER) are expected to join FEM as ordinary or associate members.

Finally, our longstanding collaboration with the Materials Handling Industry of America was very fruitful during the period 2004-2006. We had joint meetings on several occasions and discussed the possibility of a more formal mutual cooperation agreement to be signed in the near future.

A review of the last two years shows that FEM is on the right track. It is working well and delivering fruitful results.

Heinz Helmut Kempkes
FEM President 2004-2006

Message from the Secretary General

During the period 2004-2006, the Orgalime Bridgehead department provided the necessary basic services for the FEM General Secretariat.

In February 2006 a new Task Force on EU Directives was created with the main objective of providing FEM with an update on EU directives and activities. Based on this information, FEM Product Groups and members could identify issues that required action, indicate priorities and designate issue managers. One very successful example of the work of this Task Force was lobbying of the EC proposal in August 2005 to amend Directive 2000/14/EC on noise emission in the environment by equipment for use outdoors. These lobbying activities directed at the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council led to a delay in stage II limits applicable to single-engine mobile cranes.

The new Directive 2005/88/EC published in December 2005 and applicable as from January 2006 includes a 2-year delay for implementation of stage II limits for single-engine mobile cranes. The Task Force on EU Directives is currently finalising a FEM position paper on Directive 2002/96/EC on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Directive 2002/95/EC on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS). Although action has been driven by another sector, FEM concerns have been echoed in an action to modify misleading guidance on the Machinery Directive in 2 guides in preparation by DG Employment and Social Affairs (European Commission) on Whole Body Vibration (WBV) and Hand Arm Vibration (HAV) in view of the implementation of Directive 2002/44/EC on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (vibrations).

Other internal market directives and issues being followed include those covering Low Voltage, Electromagnetic Compatibility, ATEX, Non-Road Mobile Machinery, Standardisation and Physical Agents.

At a different level, a new discussion group on mechanical engineering known as "EnginEurope" has been created by the European Commission to assess the challenges to the competitiveness of Europe's mechanical engineering industry and to analyse how it can continue to fully exploit and further develop its potential. EnginEurope aims to initiate a dialogue on the challenges facing the sector in the fields of innovation, intellectual property rights, availability of highly skilled personnel, and access to international markets. The FEM General Secretariat will coordinate the FEM contribution to this discussion.

Guy Van Doorslaer
FEM Secretary General

Cranes and Lifting Equipment

The Cranes and Lifting Equipment Product Group was founded at the FEM General Assembly in 2004, with Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland as founding members. The Group was an amalgamation of the former Section I (Heavy Lifting and Handling Equipment), Section V (Mobile Cranes), and Section IX (Series Lifting Equipment). The main intention was firstly to bring together those sectors of the industry with the same, strong interest in cranes and lifting equipment and secondly, to follow the restructuring process of European manufacturers over recent years.

The Group represents the interests of manufacturers of tower and harbour cranes, lifting equipment (EOT), hoisting equipment and mobile cranes, including winches and hoists for stages.

The key role of the Group is to draft and communicate industry positions. It represents the technical, economic and political interests of the industry. It strives for technical progress and improved safety at work (e.g. via CEN, ISO and OSHA through the establishment of guidelines and FEM documents) and is a bridgehead between industry and authorities, formulating and communicating the industry's position on European legislation.

The Group has three subgroups: Lifting Equipment (EOT) & Hoisting Equipment, Tower & Harbour Cranes, and Mobile Cranes.

For the Lifting Equipment (EOT) & Hoisting Equipment subgroup, with members from Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland, the five main items on the work programme are:

- to establish statistics for the European market incorporating an interface with the USA market (MHIA)
- to maintain the FEM 1.001 document series following progress in CEN/TC 147

- WG 2 'Cranes - design - General' and the publication of the EN 13001 series
- to elaborate a second part of FEM guideline 9.756 ('Hand-operated and power driven hoists for special purposes') dealing with electrical safety, as a complement to the first mechanical part published in August 2004
 - to elaborate a document on light cranes
 - to elaborate design examples for the implementation of requirements concerning the control function in EN safety standards.

This subgroup monitors the work of CEN, IEC and ISO in the field of its products.

The Tower & Harbour Cranes subgroup (members: Germany, France and Italy) has two sections. The first deals mainly with support for the development of CEN & ISO standards, especially EN 14430 Cranes - Tower Cranes and climbing frames, and also an amendment to EN 13001-2 initiated by FEM. It also monitors the work of CEN/TC 147 WG P 2 and ISO/TC 96 SC 7 concerning scope of products, and maintains liaison with the Committee for European Construction Equipment (CECE) to exchange ideas and pursue common technical and economical goals. The second section is a specialist calculation group working on EN 14439 'Cranes - Tower cranes'. The goal of this section is to prepare a proposal for the revision of EN 14439 on the basis of EN 13001 standards which were published in September 2004.

The subgroup Mobile Cranes (members: Germany, France and Italy - new member since end of 2005) has two sections. The first deals with technical aspects, for example FEM work on amendment of the Directive on Noise of Equipment for use Outdoors. This amendment was accepted in the European Parliament in October 2005 and consequently published in the Official Journal, with the result that the threshold values for the permissible sound power level

required in the second stage of the Directive were not applied at the beginning of 2006. A pending product ban on mobile cranes was thus averted. The annual International Cranes Technical Liaison Meeting, in which FEM participates, allows an exchange of mutual points of interest eg legislative developments in Europe, Japan and the USA. One work item is the preparation of a draft to unify the symbols (plates) used in and on mobile cranes. FEM strongly supports the process to find a mutual agreement with European authorities on the standardisation process of EN 13000 Crane-Mobile Cranes (safeguard clause). The following Directives have been monitored: Machinery Directive (revision), Vibrations, Electromagnetic Compatibility and Engine Exhaust Emissions. The second section of this Group deals with economic matters (eg worldwide mobile crane statistics compiled with counterpart associations in the USA and Japan).



Integrated Systems

The Integrated Systems Group organised a very successful workshop at CeMAT 2005. It was composed of modules covering the future of integrated systems, the risks involved in integrated systems projects based on experiences which have failed, and recommendations for future work on FEM guidelines on reliability, availability and maintainability (RAM) and on control & IT interfaces.

For the FEM RAM project, the target is to collect the knowledge of the industry and research institutes and to incorporate the

requirements of suppliers and customers. The objective is to calculate availability values in the planning phase.

The FEM RAM project will be organised over a 2-year period and include workshops for systems integrators and customers.

For the Warehousing Control & IT project, the aim is to set up a dialogue platform with ERP and WMS editors (SAP, Manhattan, RED Prairie) and integrators (Accenture, Cap Gemini...), listen to their expectations and build a collective proposal.

These projects will be conducted in close cooperation with the Material Handling Industry of America (MHIA).

Finally, the Product Group plans to launch a European statistics reporting system on the number of turnkey projects for integrated systems contracted in several market segments on a quarterly basis.

The Product Group will hold its Plenary meeting 2006 on 10 October in Brussels.

Motor-Driven Storage Equipment

The Product Group 'Motor-driven storage equipment' brings together manufacturers of storage and retrieval machines, high-bay storage and miniload systems, and motor-driven storage equipment e.g. horizontal and vertical carousels, storage lifts and mobile racking and shelving.

The Product Group is about to complete the revision of FEM 9.831 'Calculation

principles of storage and retrieval machines - Tolerances, deformations and clearances in the high-bay warehouse' in a joint working group in collaboration with FEM Product Group 'Racking and Shelving'.

The International Statistics for Storage and Retrieval Machines should be mentioned as a further activity of the Product Group. 20 manufacturers

participate in the collection of these statistics which include the following:

- Number of installed machines
- Place of installation
- Device type (S/R Machine with/without operator, Miniload)

Racking & Shelving

A major part of Product Group activity over the past two years has been associated with the work of the CEN Committee for the Racking industry, namely CEN TC 344 'Steel Static Storage Systems'.

Member Associations provide the Chairmanship of both the TC and its various Working Groups.

There have been many CEN meetings developing CEN Racking standards based on the Product Group's published Manufacturers Codes particularly on:

- Design
- Tolerances
- User Responsibilities
- Specifiers Responsibilities
- Terms and Descriptions

Indeed during the period the Product Group retained External Experts to assist the industry reach consensus amongst European Manufacturers on the content of the Racking Design Standards.

The first four of the aforementioned standards will shortly be submitted to the CEN prEN public enquiry procedure. The FEM 10.2.08 'Design Considerations for Racking under Seismic Conditions' was published in January 2006 as an experimental reference document. It will be complemented with the results of the

EU SEISRACK R & D contract which is due to be completed in 2006 and thereafter FEM 10.2.08 will be offered to the CEN TC 344 Committee as a 'committee draft' for elaborating as a CEN Standard.

A lot of effort was devoted to developing a proposal under the EU Sixth Framework Programme for R & D funding for a project titled 'Hazard Reduction in Storage Sites' (HARESS).

Co-ordinated by Manchester University on behalf of the Product Group a finalised proposal was submitted to the EU in the Autumn of 2005. Unfortunately the proposal was rejected by the EU and the Product Group has still to determine whether or not a revised bid for funding should be developed.

The Product Group was formally established as the 'European Racking Federation' (ERF) in UK Company law in September 2004. This was done to satisfy FEM requirements for the Product Group to be legally constituted and also to safeguard members should a contract for R & D be signed with the EU. Members are being consulted on the contents of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Federation.

ERF members are Associations/companies in Norway, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, UK and Italy. There are also two Associate Members being from Australia and Egypt.



Mobile Elevated Work Platforms

The Product Group is attempting to study carefully the accidents occurring with MEWPs to determine their causal factors and make recommendations. The Group also saw a need to formulate statistics regarding not only accidents occurring with MEWPs but accidents involving work from height broken down into different categories e.g. Cranes and Telehandlers. At the last meeting the Secretary presented a draft accident report form proposed to be used as a reporting mechanism into the MEWP Product Group.

Members of the FEM MEWP Product Group actively participate in CEN/TC98/WG1 that is concerned in the revision of the EN280 standard. This standard covers

the design examination and testing of MEWPs. Topics include deck extensions on scissor lifts, emergency lowering overload cut-out, chassis tilt, folding guard rails, work restraint anchorages, manual leveling of platforms, drop bars, and scissor mechanism guarding requirements.

The overriding theme through these discussions is how the draft requirements could be implemented on all MEWP types and the safety improvements that result from them on different product ranges.

The Product Group has invited Manufacturers to become part of a Market Statistics exchange and

has received positive feedback.

Communication has taken place with all of the major players within the industry who have shown initial interest in taking part.

The Product Group is also monitoring activities with regards to possible changes to the Outdoor Noise Directive and proposals for guidance to assist duty holders and authorities to implement the Machinery Directive 3rd Amendment.

Industrial Trucks

On the technical level, the Product Group finished supporting documents of the EC Directive on User Protection of Work Equipment of Workers at Work, i.e. periodic inspections of industrial trucks and exceptional use of working platforms with industrial trucks. As for floor requirements (floor flatness and floor levelness), the topic was restarted after completing research on this matter.

Furthermore, the Product Group successfully helped to develop a position paper regarding the Outdoor Noise Directive, asking for several changes in order to meet Stage II of this directive. This led to the amendment of this directive.

New topics in the Product Group were foot protection, load moment indicator and load moment control and visibility.

A further standing technical committee for rough terrain trucks, in which manufacturers can discuss product-specific issues within their own committee, will be established soon.

A procedure for developing FEM recommendations is currently underway to support especially the new members in the committee with their daily tasks.

The Product Group is very much involved in the European (CEN) and worldwide (ISO) standardisation of safety requirements for all kinds of industrial trucks. Several FEM member companies represent their national standardisation institutions at CEN and/or ISO level.

Regarding economic and statistics work, the Product Group finalised the revision of the FEM IT statistics manual, which serves as a basis for the worldwide collection of monthly statistical data for order intake and quarterly statistical data for deliveries of industrial trucks. A huge effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the imported data. The software was improved and, more specifically, an early warning system for the monthly order intake statistics at company and FEM IT level was implemented. The Product Group is focusing on attracting more 'big truck' manufacturers to participate in the

collection of these statistics. Currently only approximately 50% of these 'big truck' manufacturers contribute their input in the various segments.

A new statistical tool for industries (branches) is under development (start 2008) using the NACE code to cover around 40 branches.

At a worldwide level, the Product Group is running world industrial truck statistics (WITS) in cooperation with the associations of America (ITA), Brazil (ABIMAQ), China (CITA), Japan (JIVA) and Korea (KOCEMA). Periodically meetings are taking place to discuss how to improve the quality of the monthly order intake and quarterly delivery data, especially to avoid double-counting. In addition, the WITS statistics manual was updated.

At board level, the three associations forming the Alliance (FEM IT, ITA and JIVA) meet once per year to exchange information of mutual interest (e.g. economic, statistical or technical matters). The Chinese board (CITA) will join the Alliance soon.

Elevating Equipment

The Elevating Equipment Product Group was formed at the 2004 Congress and has since met a further 6 times in Brussels (3), Berlin, Paris and Birmingham, UK. During this time all aspects of the PG have been included in a single meeting forum, but the intention at the Plenary meeting during the 2006 Congress, in Tampere, is to form separate working groups to cover work items that are specific to lift table, dock leveller and tail lift manufacturers.

The Product Group has concentrated so far on 2 main work items:

- Preparation of summary documents to show the benefits, to manufacturers and purchasers of equipment, of using the appropriate harmonised CEN standard.
- Preparation of separate FEM guidance documents on the Periodic Inspection of lift tables, dock levellers and tail lifts that are covered by the scope of the PG.

Other activities include:

- Evaluation and discussion of EC Directives and the documents produced in CEN and ISO, as appropriate.
- Monitoring any proposals for new national regulations which would restrict the free movement of equipment.

The Product Group aims to promote the discussion of CEN standards, draft standards, proposed amendments, etc. between those manufacturers, from different EU member states, that are not directly involved in the standardisation activities.

The PG will allow more manufacturers to understand the issues, offer opinions, suggest changes, etc. that may improve the standards and increase the overall industry knowledge.

The applicable CEN standards are:

- EN 1570: 1998
Safety requirements for Lifting Tables
- EN 1398:1997
Safety requirements for Dock Levellers
- EN 1756-1: 2001
Platform lifts for mounting on wheeled vehicles – Safety requirements – Part 1: Tail Lifts for goods
- EN 1756-2: 2004
Platform lifts for mounting on wheeled vehicles – Safety requirements – Part 2: Tail lifts for passengers

BELGIUM

AGORIA
80 Bvd A Reyers
BE-1030 BRUSSELS

SWITZERLAND

Swissmem
Kirchenweg 4
CH-8008 ZÜRICH

GERMANY

VDMA
Fachverband Fördertechnik
und Logistiksysteme
Lyoner Strasse 18
DE-60528 FRANKFURT/NIEDERRAD

SPAIN

Asociación Española de Manutención
E.T.S.E.I.B
Diagonal 647. Planta 11
ES-08028 BARCELONA

FINLAND

Technology Industries of Finland
Eteläranta 10
PO Box 10
FIN-00131 HELSINKI

FRANCE

Comité National Français de la FEM
c/o CISMA
39-41, rue Louis Blanc Courbevoie
F-92038 PARIS LA DEFENSE CEDEX

ITALY

Associazione Italiana
Sistemi Sollevamento,
Elevazione, Movimentazione
via A. Scarsellini 13,
I - 20161 MILANO

LUXEMBOURG

Industrie Luxembourgeoise
de la Technologie du Métal
p.a. FEDIL
7 rue Alcide de Gasperi
BP 1304
LU-1013 LUXEMBOURG

THE NETHERLANDS

Vereniging FME-CWM
Postbus 190, Boerhaavelaan 40
NL-2700 AD ZOETERMEER

PORTUGAL

ANEMM
Estrada do Paço do Lumiar
Polo Tecnológico Lisboa Lote 13
PT-1600 LISBOA

SWEDEN

Materialhanteringsgruppen
(The Swedish Association of Suppliers of
Mechanical Handling Equipment)
Storgatan 5, PO Box 5510
SE-11485 STOCKHOLM

UK

British Materials Handling Federation
The McLaren Building, 6th Floor
35 Dale End
UK-BIRMINGHAM B4 7LN



Fédération Européenne de la Manutention

Federation of European Materials Handling

Europäischer Verband für Fördertechnik

Federazione Europea della Movimentazione e del Sollevamento

Diamant Building - 80 Boulevard A Reyers, B - 1030 Brussels, Belgium
T: +32-2-706.82.30 - F: +32-2-706.82.53

www.fem-eur.com



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