



**European Federation of
Materials Handling
Product Group Cranes and Lifting Equipment
Mobile Cranes**



**European Association of
Heavy Haulage Transport and Mobile
Cranes Group**

Safety Alert - Press Release

Frankfurt, 12th April 2010
FEM PG CLE MC N 0219

Ref: Mobile Cranes – Influence of Wind Forces during Crane Operation

ESTA and FEM Product Group Mobile Cranes would like to inform:

It has come to our attention that wind forces acting on loads during lifting operations have led to a number of serious accidents especially in the wind mill industry.

Therefore we would like to point to the fact that influences of wind forces during crane operation, as described in detail in the load charts and operation manuals of the crane manufacturers of mobile cranes, must be observed to prevent accidents.

Especially during lifting of loads with relative small masses but large sail areas, the wind load has a considerable impact on the load carrying performance of the crane. The effective sail area of the load which needs to be taken into account is the result of the projected area multiplied with the c_w factor (shape coefficient for the load). The sail area and c_w factor must be known to all parties planning the lifting operation.

Additionally, it is mandatory to request information regarding the expected wind forces including any gusts for the relevant environment from the responsible meteorological office prior to performing a lift and to take this information into account.

The performance of a lift without knowledge of the expected wind forces and the actual sail area of the load can lead to a failure of components and/or turning over of the crane!

In case of negligence, risk for life exists.

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Note:

ESTA is the European Representative of mobile crane rental companies and abnormal load transport companies.

FEM is representing the European manufacturers of lifting equipment including mobile cranes.

See <http://www.esta-eu.org> and <http://www.fem-eur.com/>