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PO

Position paper of

FEM Product Group Cranes and Lifting Equipment Meeting - Sub-Group Mobile Cranes Regarding: "Putting Mobile Cranes on the Market"

Definition and economic data

Mobile cranes are machines equipped with telescopic boom or lattice structure booms and carriers with tires or crawlers (for a more detailed definition see EN13000:2010). They are used and moved often worldwide.

Typical examples are:

- All-terrain mobile cranes (AT cranes)
- Rough-terrain mobile cranes (RT cranes)
- Crawler Cranes



All-terrain mobile crane



Rough-terrain mobile crane



Crawler crane

The European production of mobile cranes has been between 3000 and 4000 units in the recent years. The export share is below 40%. Mobile cranes manufactured in Europe are designed and built to be accepted on the worldwide market.

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EU regulation applicable to mobile cranes:

Mobile cranes have to comply with all relevant EC directives (e.g. Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC, Noise Directive 2000/14/EC, Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive 2004/108/EC).

In addition, manufacturers take as reference the European standard EN 13000, which substantiates the requirements stipulated in Annex I of the Machinery Directive. By providing specifications for safety-related solutions, the standard facilitates verification of compliance with these requirements and is thus the state-of-the-art standard for European mobile cranes. If this standard is applied, it can be assumed that the essential health and safety requirements of the Machinery Directive are fulfilled, provided that this standard addresses all of the hazards connected with the machine.

Current problem when used mobile cranes will be put on the EU market for the first time:

Since the investment volume for each mobile crane is very high (between 300.000 € and 20 Million €), they are used throughout the world by customers, which are usually rental companies.

Mobile cranes that are exported directly to a non-EU country by a manufacturer based in the European Community are more and more frequently re-imported to the EU after a certain period of time. In this special situation, mobile cranes are placed on the EU market for the first time and are considered to be “new” cranes.

A conformity assessment shall be conducted to ensure the used cranes comply with the current EU directives (date of putting them on the EU market) in applying the state-of-the-art, finalized with the establishing of an EC declaration of conformity and a CE marking.

The result of this assessment would possibly require major changes to the machine when re-importing it after some years. As such, two cranes of same design and scope of delivery, delivered at the same time but to different places, would be treated differently. This significantly affects the residual value of the product and is in contradiction to the current worldwide usage.

Possible procedure to overcome the current problem:

As far as mobile cranes are concerned, they are primarily designed in compliance with the EU directives. FEM suggests that, in future, when used mobile cranes from a third country are put on the EU market for the first time, the procedure will be limited to a conformity assessment with the directives and state-of-the-art applicable when the mobile crane was manufactured, provided an EC declaration of conformity was established and delivered with the crane at that date.

The importer is responsible for the procedure and the affixing of the CE marking.

Practical example:

This example assumes a mobile crane complying with all relevant EC directives is delivered to a country outside Europe with a different nominal load bearing capacity than EN 13000 permits for the European Community.

In the case of mobile cranes, the rated capacity limiter values are set using software - this programming can only be performed by the original manufacturer or its authorized representatives. The importer cannot access the software used for configuring the rated capacity limiter, if he has not been authorized by the manufacturer.

For direct export, the nominal load bearing capacity may be set by the manufacturer and the CE mark is removed in order to clearly inform the user about the reconfigured nominal load bearing capacity. In addition, the manufacturer supplements the operating manual with the corresponding information about the adjustment differing from EU regulation, and also notes that the EC Declaration of Conformity is only valid for the originally configured crane.

If the mobile crane is then re-imported into the European Community, the importer - if he is not authorized - is responsible for contacting the original manufacturer, who will verify the programming of the rated capacity limiter to the EU requirements.

A conformity assessment is not required with regards to the latest relevant EC directives; it is only required to make sure the crane meets the relevant EC directives valid on the first delivery date, since the mobile crane was equipped in a way that it could have been placed on the EC market at the time of delivery as new machine.