

# Hints and Tips for lifting equipment

## Allianz Engineering

### How can Allianz offer to help you?

#### Prior to purchase examinations

If you were thinking of buying a second hand car you may want to check its history and most importantly its safety i.e. MOT and service. This can be done through the many mobile apps for history and the motoring organisations for safety. But what if it is a piece of mobile lifting plant like a fork lift that you need?

Well Allianz Engineering would recommend that you ensure what you are buying remains fit for the purpose it was designed to do, and is in good order. Through a "Prior to Purchase" examination you would receive an inspection of the plant completed by a competent person, who will produce a detailed inspection report.

The report would detail faults and defects, plus any recommendations which were found. This inspection can assist a buyer to make a better judgement call on whether they want to buy the plant, and potentially save themselves from a costly repair bill in the process.

#### Additional inspections following repairs

As part of the requirements of the legislation regarding plant and equipment of various types, there is normally the requirement for the competent persons to report on any urgent defects which represent a danger to others within a formal report.

This identifies the defect and often the action which needs to be taken to rectify such defects within a specific time frame. As part of an inspection policy the duties of the competent person and the legislation does not call for the plant to be re-examined post repairs.

In normal circumstances the competent person will not inspect that item again until it is due for its next inspection, thus leaving the client with a current inspection report showing this defect.

For many clients having a report which shows that action has been taken and that the current condition of the plant is free of defects which may present a danger to persons is of paramount importance.

This is a service which is in addition to the routine examination of plant and will often occur out of synchronisation with the other plant examinations, however it is very easy for us to arrange to have plant which has been repaired examined thoroughly which can have many benefits:-

- Report held by client will be showing that the plant was free of serious defects at the time, and for hiring companies shows that the plant was fit for service at that time.
- The repair will have been viewed and assessed by a competent person.
- Client has peace of mind that the plant can be put into use having met the regulatory need for examination.
- Plant hire companies can demonstrate that the item is free of defects when presenting the plant to their clients.



## Incident investigations

An increasing number of clients are not the only users of the plant which they own or operate. Either they hire out their plant or allow its use by non employees and other parties.

In the event of an incident with the plant clearly there will be a need to investigate and find out what happened:-

- To help ensure that any actions to prevent re-occurrence can be identified.
- To identify whether failure of the plant was a contributory factor.
- To gather evidence at the time before other factors destroy the chance.

Allianz Engineering can provide a service which with our competence, impartiality and integrity ensures that the incident can be recorded and investigated promptly, and will gather the facts of the matter without prejudice such that the matter can be effectively resolved and the equipment returned to normal service quickly.

Allianz Engineering can produce a report with images which show the location of the incident, factors which could have affected the outcome and also provide a full inspection of the plant to advise on its suitability for further use post the incident if required.

This will provide clients with an independent record of the incident which may be helpful in any subsequent investigations into how future incidents can be avoided and learning points identified for effective running of future operations.

## Tagcheck changes for 2014

The Allianz Engineering Tagcheck systems can be used by our clients to give a quick and easy visual indication if the item has been recently inspected, and if that item is 'in date'. Our usual systems of coloured cable ties, plastic date discs and self adhesive labels are widely used and appreciated by our clients.

In 2013 we carried out a detailed review of our systems and looked to make improvements and enhancements to the system based on the feedback from our clients and Engineer Surveyors.

We have recently introduced a new date label system which can allow our Engineer Surveyor to write the next inspection date on to the sticker. This sticker is plastic based, hard wearing and can be used for up to 2 years (depending on the item inspection periodicity). The advantage being that the end user does not have to refer to a colour chart or poster to know that the item is 'in date'.

We are also able to listen to our clients and tailor a system to meet their needs, for instance we have recently supplied one client with a coloured plastic coated steel wire tag which is fixed in place using an aluminium ferrule. This system has been found to be very effective in areas of an arduous nature, for example a quarry or construction site.

