IPAF Training Course on Loading and Unloading by Czeslawa Wakefield

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There are many aspects to work-at-height environment tasks or projects. It is not just about scaffolding and machineries which raise the platforms to reach the different heights in the project. One of the more obscure but equally important aspects of work-at-height projects is the loading and unloading tasks such as securing and unloading the relevant materials for transit.

There would be heavy materials and equipment which are required at the work site for the project; these would most probably be transported by road to the work site. They would need to be unloaded carefully to avoid damage, breakage and losses so that there would be enough materials for the project to be successful.

At the end of the project, there may be machineries, tools and heavy equipment which would be required to be transported back to their origins; some of these may be rented or leased. Hence, careful transportation is required through the careful loading of these items.

Course Objectives

There are several achievable objectives by candidates at the end of this IPAF training course. The candidates would be made aware of the latest safety and health regulations and legislation; they would be knowledgeable about accident prevention as well as control measures. Candidates would also be alert to the needs and responsibility of good protection over all work related equipment by considering the appropriate safety load to perform the loading and unloading procedures correctly.

The course objective also includes equipping the candidates with the right identification of machineries to be loaded into the suitable transportation vehicle that would be legal on the highway.

Course Content

The course is power packed with the dissemination of the latest regulations; road traffic act, HSWA 1974, risk assessment, management regulations 1999, LOLER 1998, PUWER 1998, road vehicles regulations 1986 (for construction and use), approved codes and safety practices.

The course would help candidates identify vehicle types such as small vehicles, trailers, 7.5 ton flatbeds, LGV 2-axle, 3-axle, 4-axle of varying tons and tractors.

It is important to identify vehicle load capacities in this IPAF loading and unloading course where risks can come on; hence, a proper risk assessment to identify potential hazards is crucial. A simple but effective loading calculation on axles is essential in this course to reduce or eliminate loading risks.

The course would also cover securing measures using chains, straps, fasteners and tie-down points. Unloading works include considerations of overhead cables, ground conditions, obstructions, type of machines, ramps, method of unloading and use of forklifts.

Last but not least, practical sessions would be available in this IPAF training course.

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