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Talk No: 53	Title: Mobile Crane Operators
Introduction: Crane operation, to be safe and efficient, requires skill, the exercise of extreme care and good judgment.	
Discussion points: ▪ You must only operate machines of a type on which you have been trained and authorized to use. ▪ Before operating, ensure that the machine is correctly maintained and the weekly inspection register completed. Report all defects immediately. ▪ Check all wire ropes for wear at frequent intervals. ▪ Before operating, test-check the safe load indicator and all crane motions. Ensure crane is on firm and level ground. Use mats if necessary. ▪ Before hoisting, ensure that the load is correctly slung, balanced and secure. ▪ Never exceed the safe working load. Obey warning devices and notices. ▪ When assessing the total load to be lifted, allow for the weight of the appropriate lifting gear. ▪ After the load is lifted a short distance completely clear of the ground, stop and check the safe load indicator for possible overload before continuing lift. ▪ Always keep within the limits shown on the indicators when derricking. ▪ Work only with authorized Banks-man/Slinger and operate to his signals. Do not react to signals from unauthorized persons, except in an emergency. ▪ Check for obstructions and men in the vicinity of the crane before slewing. Clearance of at least 0.609 m (2) must as far as possible be maintained between moving parts of the crane and any nearby fixture. ▪ Slewing motions should be operated gently to reduce load swing to a minimum. ▪ Before traveling ensure that the slewing lock is engaged. ▪ Watch out for overhead power lines. Do not pass under unless within the confines of "goal posts" and a banks-man is in attendance. ▪ Working alongside power lines should not be undertaken unless authorized and closely supervised. ▪ When traveling with a load, keep it as near the ground as possible. Drive slowly and look out for obstructions and uneven ground. ▪ Outriggers, where fitted, should always be fully extended according to the load chart in the cab when using the crane in a blocked capacity. Use suitable packing to spread the lot. ▪ Lower gently when depositing load.	

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- Before loading a vehicle ensure the driver is out the cab unless this has special protection.
- Never share a load with another crane unless the operation has been planned and is supervised.
- If persons have to be lifted, they must travel in an approved chair, cage and skip, and the crane must be equipped with power lowering and automatic breaking.
- Never leave the crane with a load suspended.
- When leaving the crane, make sure the power is off, the hook is unloaded and out of the way, the brakes are on, and the cab is locked, so that no authorized person can interfere with the crane.
- Driver training may have to be carried out. Your Foreman will give you instructions on this. No unauthorized driver is permitted to operate the crane. The authorized crane operator must accompany a trainee.

THE RESPECT OF CRANE SAFETY OPERATION ZONES IS FUNDAMENTAL!

Notes: