

WORKING SAFER WITH CONSTRUCTION MACHINES



A multi
stakeholder
approach



European Federation
of Building
and Woodworkers



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



This memorandum of understanding reflects the common understanding of the Committee for European Construction Equipment (CECE), the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) and the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) on the health and safety aspects in the design and use of construction machines. It is the result of a two year project entitled **WORKING SAFER WITH CONSTRUCTION MACHINES – A MULTI STAKEHOLDER APPROACH** which was organised with the financial assistance of the European Commission.

A series of five workshops were organised in the framework of the project and, based on the workshop results, four fact sheets were elaborated, dealing with: ergonomics, site organisation and training of operators/workers, collision avoidance and standardisation. The three partners are committed to disseminate the project results and have the intention to continue the cooperation in different areas and on different levels.

This memorandum of understanding presents some joint considerations concerning the relation and interaction between manufacturers and users of construction machinery, policy areas and related demands as well as the commitment regarding possible future joint activities.

FOSTERING COOPERATION

Still being faced with too many serious and fatal accidents when using construction machines in construction processes, the project partners consider the coordinated communication and cooperation between manufacturers and users as essential for the improved design and use of such machines. The underlying understanding of the partners is that the MoU aims at promoting a vision of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) of machinery in construction sites, where productivity, OSH, sustainability of the industry and quality of work are placed at the same level of importance. According to this vision, construction machinery is expected to be easily maintained, inspected, certified, tested, used and assessed by manufacturers, employers and workers according to their respective responsibilities and obligations.

The dialogue between manufacturers and users is needed in order to

- 1) make clear to users the justifications, constraints and limitations associated with the design and
- 2) make clear to designers the cause of discomfort and concerns with the use of specific equipment or design features.

The partners agree that the concept of improving cooperation between manufacturers and users, although well accepted in principle, is not yet sufficiently put in practice. We believe that, in general, manufacturers can benefit from the knowledge and experience of employers and workers using construction machinery and gain a commercial and quality advantage over the competitors by making the machine more attractive to buyers and easily accepted by the workforce.

EXPECTATIONS AND DEMANDS TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN POLICY MAKERS

European policy makers, especially the European Commission but also the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN/TC 151) play a decisive role in setting an adequate political and legal framework aiming at facilitating the achievement of the main goals of this project. In this respect we consider ourselves as an interest group with specific interest and some common goals. What we expect from the European policy maker is the active involvement of the concerned Social Partners in the elaboration or adaptation of such political and legal framework. More precisely we call for:

- Giving us access to the Machinery Working Group (MWG) and the CEN and/or ISO system as “observers”, in order to reach a wide range of actors and experts directly or indirectly involved in the safety of construction machinery, beyond standardisation, market surveillance, labour inspectors, manufacturing.
- Better means to facilitate the communication between stakeholders and CEN respectively the relevant technical Committee (CEN/TC 151).
- In the same way, the network of the project partners should have a seat in the MWG, to be able to contribute actively with opinions and recommendations.
- The promotion of the feed-back method (CEN/TR 16710-1) aiming at the most effective involvement of users in the evaluation and improvement of existing standards.
- The establishment of a European platform dealing with socio-technical issues, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss expectations on how digital advancements (Digitalisation) can make the work with construction machinery safer.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

It is the intention of the three partners to run follow-up activities and initiatives. In this respect, we commit ourselves to foster permanent dialogue on issues of mutual interest besides machinery design, such as the improvement of standards, second-hand machinery, market surveillance or training.

Following the multi stakeholder approach of this project, we intend to cooperate with other concerned stakeholders such as, for example, OSH coordinators, prevention institutions, architects & engineers, designers, technicians, as well as with the political field.

It is recognised that the project follow-up interventions would run at different speeds: improvements in the organisation of work regarding the use of construction machinery and in the elaboration/adaptation of training programs for the workforce could arguably be arranged in a relatively short period, whereas design improvements would be subject to the time constraints of the standardisation process.

More precisely, the project partners commit themselves to

- Disseminate the project results, this Memorandum of Understanding and the fact sheets within their respective area of activity, in order to inform people and public about the diverse aspects of the project and to foster mutual understanding.

- Disseminate the project results also towards other sectors, other stakeholders and the political field.
- Continue a permanent dialogue regarding the improvement of health and safety aspects of construction machinery (e.g. the state of the art) and related aspects, including the option of further joint projects in the future.
- Jointly work on policy options for a better collaboration of stakeholders, fostering the relation between manufacturers and users and develop, whenever appropriate, joint positions and policy options regarding these aspects.
- Work on improved training modules for machine operators and foster guidance for an optimal site organisation.
- Deal with the issue of machinery made available to workers; ensuring that they are suitable for the work to be carried out and properly adapted for that purpose; gathering usable suggestions of best practises to improve conditions.
- Support a better market surveillance with the overall aim to ban outdated, unsafe and non-compliant machinery from the European market. This also includes proposals for the retrofitting of machinery that does not meet today’s standards and legal requirements.

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