

ESTA's SPMT best practice guide to be published in six languages

ESTA's well-received best practice guide for the use of self-propelled modular transporters (SPMT) is being translated into six languages to meet demand from across Europe.

The new guide helps address the problem of trailers occasionally tipping over, even though existing operating rules and stability calculations have been precisely followed.

Translations into German and Polish have already been published and are available free of charge from ESTA's website. French, Danish and Spanish editions have almost been completed and work has started on an Italian edition.

The guide was created following growing concerns from across the industry. In response, ESTA set up a working group to produce a best practice guide including representatives from several leading members, plus manufacturers and clients.

It covers a wide range of topics including:

- lines of communication
- equipment capacity, maintenance and design
- design of the load
- load documentation and information
- operator and engineer training
- engineering a transport
- work environment

The companies involved in the working group were Collett, Fagioli, Goldhofer, Kamag, Mammoet, RDW (the Dutch Department of Road Transport), Sarens, Scheuerle, Shell, Wagenborg Nedlift and The Works International.

"The intention of this document is to correlate the chain of responsibility for all stakeholders involved with SPMT operations, recommend best practice and serve as a 'base line starting point' for the use of SPMTs, from which more complex transport engineering jobs can be developed," said David Collett, ESTA President and Managing Director at UK company, Collett & Sons.

He added: "However, it should be noted that the document has been produced, and should be read, with the view that such a complex subject as the 'use of SPMTs', means it cannot be prescriptive, or offer engineering calculations, due to the many complex possibilities for this unique transport method."

"Having said that, ESTA is proud of its work on this guide and it will be offered to the market for free distribution and use. It is our hope that it will be adopted as a 'world standard'."

For further information, go to www.estaeurope.eu.