

ESTA is the leading European association for the abnormal road transport and mobile crane rental industry



WELCOME TO THIS ROUND-UP OF ESTA'S WORK, EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

ESTA - the European Association of Abnormal Road Transport and Mobile Cranes - welcomes you to this latest newsletter on current developments in the abnormal transport and heavy lift industries.



S U P P O R T E R

If you and your organisation would like to become more involved in ESTA's work, and take part in some top quality and enjoyable networking at the same time [both online and - when allowed - in person!], then why not see if you are eligible to become an official ESTA Supporter. It costs just 840 euros a year and comes with a range of benefits. To find out more, go to [here](#)

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ESTA pressing for EU commitment on abnormal transport reform

Following the European elections last month, ESTA is pressing officials and politicians in Brussels to continue the work of harmonizing and reforming the rules on abnormal transport.

ESTA has welcomed the appointment of Dutch politician Wopka Hoekstra as the new Transport Commissioner as a pragmatist who will listen to the concerns of industry across Europe. He is a former the Deputy Prime Minister of the Netherlands and was previously the European commissioner for climate action.

ESTA is also planning to contact the new generation of relevant MEPs to ensure that they are aware of the problems facing abnormal transport operators and the implications for the wider European economy.

Before the elections, members of the European Parliament backed moves to harmonise the numerous and complex national rules governing abnormal transport by revising the EU's Weights and Dimensions Directive (96/53).

ESTA Director Ton Klijn said: "It is essential that the huge progress we have made to date is not lost and we will be doing our best to ensure that all of those involved - both MEPs and officials - are fully aware of the importance of this issue.

"Harmonising national rules and removing administrative and operational bottlenecks would deliver huge benefits."



New call for information about AdBlue concerns

ESTA is reminding members to send in information about problems with the use of AdBlue in mobile cranes and SPMTs.

After the issue was first raised last month, ESTA has received many comments from worried members and has been made aware of similar concerns in other industry sectors - notably farming - and in the Middle East as well as Europe.

AdBlue is a mixture of water and urea used in diesel engines to minimise the production of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions. It reacts with NOx in the catalytic converter, breaking it down into nitrogen and water vapour in a process known as Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR).

The concerns were raised at the last meeting of the EU Regulations Workgroup whose attendees include ESTA members and representatives of the crane manufacturers through FEM, the European Materials Handling Federation.

Crane rental companies are reporting growing issues with the use of AdBlue with some saying almost one third of all on-road breakdowns seem to be AdBlue related.

A key concern is that if the AdBlue system malfunctions – perhaps because the engine is too cold – then the crane’s engine can lose power or even shut down, with potentially dangerous consequences.

ESTA is gathering information in the first instance, and will then consult and decide on the next steps.



Action on parking making progress

ESTA members and supporters have been asked to complete a European Union survey on the need for improved truck parking and driver facilities.

The survey is part of a Brussels-funded study on the availability of suitable rest facilities for professional drivers as well as on the development of safe and secure parking facilities throughout the EU.

The feedback supplied by the survey will play a significant role in helping European regulators and the wider industry to understand the current situation better and to identify areas where improvements can be made.

For any additional information, please contact meetings@eu-study.eu.
The link to the survey is [here](#)

In a separate move, ESTA is talking to German petrol station and parking operator Serways about adapting a number of their sites to accommodate abnormal transports.

Discussions are underway about which parking locations in the country should be the top priorities. Suggestions from members will be welcome.

Blade lifter manufacturers asked to amend operating guidance advice

Manufacturers of blade lifters have been asked to check that their operating guidance takes into account the new transport stability guideline published by ESTA at the end of last year.

Blade lifters – trailers that allow a wind turbine blade to be raised or turned to facilitate its transportation – are becoming increasingly popular as they can minimise changes in road layout and reduce a project's environmental impact.



ESTA published its new transport stability guideline for the use of Modular Hydraulically Suspended Trailers in an attempt to improve safety and raise standards.

The guideline – which is available from the member's Knowledge Base library in ESTA's website – was the result of work carried out by ESTA's SPMT working group whose 12 member companies come from eight different countries.

The guideline specifies the factors to be considered when verifying the global stability and capacity of a modular hydraulically suspended trailer by calculation, assuming that the trailer is operating on a stable surface.

It will eventually be incorporated into a completely updated best practice guide expected to be published later this year.

ESTA publishes Lifting Operation Risk Management guide

The first draft of ESTA's Lifting Operation Risk Management best practice guide has been published and is available to members from the Knowledge Base library in ESTA's website.

ESTA intends the new guidelines to help companies assess the risks involved in different types of work and give them advice on how to protect themselves using state-of-the-art work preparation and properly drafted terms and conditions.

The guide is especially aimed at smaller companies but also contains information for clients to help them manage projects safely and ensure that they give accurate and relevant information to their suppliers.

The report's preface explains: "The aim of this best practice guide is not to reissue a set of rules and regulations for the industry, but rather an attempt, by outlining different forms of contracts and listing existing regulations and incident prevention measures, to make users of lifting equipment aware of the risks of lifting operations and protection against their consequences."

It is the result of the efforts of an ESTA working group whose members are Blanca Claeysens, managing director of ASA France; Marcel Schets, SHEQ manager at Mammoet; Joe Collins, heavy lift manager with Becht Engineering; Norbert van Schaik, senior lifting specialist with Siemens Gamesa; and Ton Klijn, ESTA Director.

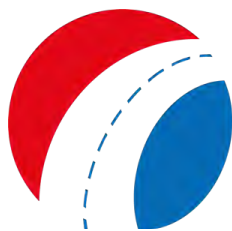
Klijn said: "The background for this initiative was the fact that crane companies are increasingly dependent on information or auxiliary materials supplied by the customer, the reliability or integrity of which cannot always be adequately established.

"ESTA was therefore looking for an opportunity to ensure members are aware of the risks, aided by publishing a best practice guide with operational recommendations and suggestions for adapting conditions."

VI GST has brought together 31 mostly German economic, business and transport organisations to the pressurise the German government to take urgent action to improve the difficult conditions faced by large and heavy transport in the country.

Electronic permitting makes progress in Germany

Transport authorities in Germany have accepted the country-wide use of ERNA, the Efficient Road Navigation Assistant developed by ESTA member Sommer.



ERNA

ESTA has long been arguing for the Europe-wide acceptance of standardised electronic permitting, route and driver support systems as a way to both improve safety and reduce the large amount of papers work that drivers have to deal with.

ERNA - which is available in 13 languages - is a certified digital driver assistance for the heavy and high-capacity transport industry.

It assists the truck driver and the driver of the accompanying vehicle in complying with the route of the permit/permit and the associated conditions, and can also advise on driving restrictions and rest areas.

Like navigation systems, it provides a visual display and an audible announcement of the authorized route along with driving conditions and instructions.

The "e-Beifahrer" - or electronic co-pilot - was until recently only approved in some federal states as part of pilot projects, and in some areas was explicitly excluded.

But now it is possible to use it on freeways throughout Germany.

The Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport said: "Test drives have shown that voice assistants lead to fewer driving errors in stressful situations. The e-Beifahrer can also reduce the costs of heavy goods transportation by reducing the number of personnel required".

ERNA has been developed by ESTA member Sommer, the German heavy transport support company. For further information, go [here](#)

France's Terminal du Grand Ouest joins ESTA

Terminal du Grand Ouest (TGO) from France has joined ESTA as an Affiliate Member.

TGO was created in June 2011 and manages all the calls of container vessels in the Port of Nantes-Saint-Nazaire, which represented 155,000 TEUs in 2023. TGO is also in charge of stevedoring general cargo vessels calling at the Port of Montoir-de-Bretagne or Saint-Nazaire.

Interested in learning more about ESTA membership opportunities? Have a look at our webpage [here](#) or contact our ESTA Marketing Officer Connie Lindhoud [here](#)



Work ongoing on telematics standard

ESTA is participating in discussions to develop a European and internationally agreed standard for telematics as used in mobile cranes, through the work on EN13000 and ISO TC 96 WG3. If any members would be interested in joining the discussions, they are invited to contact the ESTA Office.

Autumn meetings in Istanbul

ESTA's autumn meetings will be held in Istanbul on October 24 and 25 at the invitation of Turkish association YMB.

If any member wants to add a subject to the agendas for discussion, they are invited to contact the ESTA Office at: officemanager@estaeurope.eu



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