

ESTA NEWSLETTER

2025 - ISSUE 2 - UK



ESTA calls for common European crane inspection regime

ESTA has begun lobbying Europe's national regulators to agree a common inspection regime for mobile cranes.

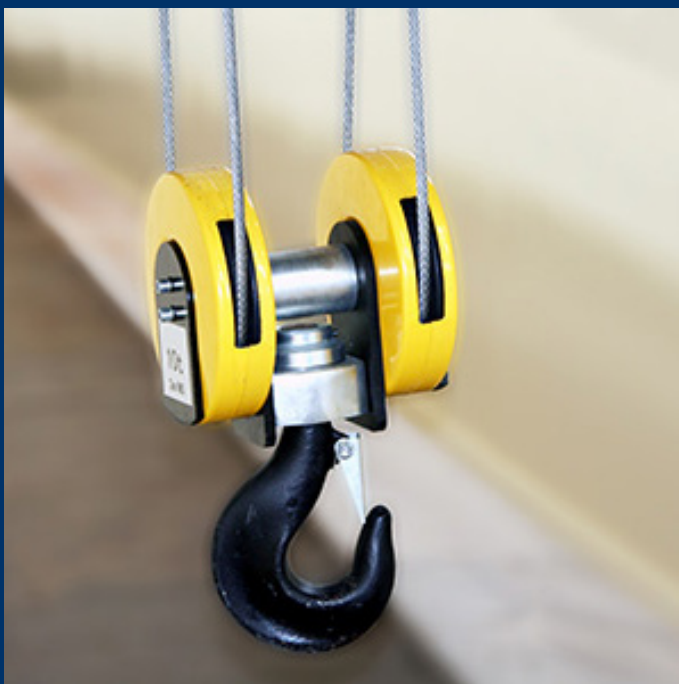
EU states are currently revising their inspection rules to bring them into line with the new EU Machinery Regulation which comes fully into force from January 2027. The new regulation introduces updated safety requirements, including measures covering technologies such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

ESTA Director Ton Klijn said:

"To have a common inspection regime would be a huge boost to the efficiency of the industry. It makes no sense for a crane that has already been inspected in the Netherlands to be re-inspected just because it has crossed the border into Belgium or Germany"

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Work starts on new guide for maintenance of rope sheaves on mobile cranes

Work has started on a new best practice guide on the safe use, inspection and maintenance of rope sheaves on mobile cranes.

The project was set up by ESTA together with FEM, the European Association of Lifting Equipment Manufacturers, by the same three-strong expert team that produced ESTA's recently published document on winch gearboxes.

ESTA has received reports from members expressing concern about the correct use, inspection and maintenance issues of sheaves that they feel merit further study. Effective inspection of sheaves seems to be underestimated, especially on major projects when cranes might not be booming down for long periods.

The expert team driving the project comprises Klaus Meissner from ESTA, Gerrit van Hove from Sarens and Hermen Kamp from Mammoet. They hope to bring together all stakeholders to discuss the issues, including sheave and bearing manufacturers along with crane manufacturers and users. When complete, the guide will be published by ESTA on its website.

" The project shall involve all stakeholders to cover all aspects related to the use of sheaves. "

– Ton Klijn, Director ESTA Europe



Modular Hydraulically Suspended Trailers

Transport stability



intelliRoad
sicher ans Ziel



Trailer operator licence scheme on track for year end

ESTA's new European Trailer Operator Licence (ETOL) for Modular Hydraulically Suspended Trailers – such as SPMTs – is taking shape and is on track to be finalised by the end of the year. At the end of last year, the experts behind the project broadly agreed a three-tier training structure and a set of learning outcome documents that set out the scope of the training.

Now, they are currently working on a glossary of definitions across multiple languages to ensure common understanding, and have started work on the item bank – that is the list of questions for the examinations and the answers to go with them to ensure that an operator is fully competent.

The core three-tier training set up was given the go-ahead by the European Crane and Transport Operators' Licence (ECTOL) Expert Committee. ECTOL is the body that oversees the operation of both ESTA's European crane licence scheme (ECOL), as well as the new transport licence project (ETOL).

A new member and a welcome back

Anagrual, Spain's national crane rental association, has rejoined ESTA as an ordinary member while German transport software company Intelliroad has joined as an affiliate member for the first time.

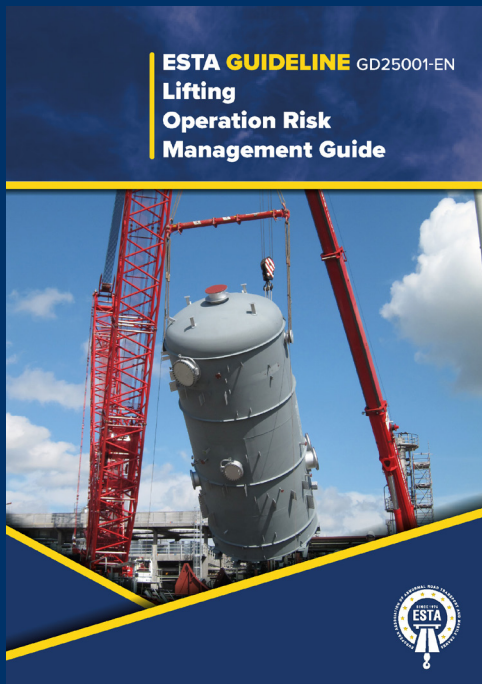
Anagrual was officially established in 1979 and today has 263 member companies from right across Spain, along with 11 regional secretariats and 18 partner companies with ties to the mobile crane sector.

ESTA Policy Officer Miguel Florez de la Colina said:

"Everyone at ESTA is delighted to welcome back Anagrual into full membership which further strengthens ESTA's relationships and contacts in one of Europe's most important markets."

New affiliate member Intelliroad was founded in 2017 and is headquartered in Thalmässing, Bavaria. It specializes in developing cloud-based software solutions for truck and heavy load transportation companies.

ESTA now has 113 members and supporters across all categories from 27 countries.



Translations planned for Lifting Operation Risk Management Guide

ESTA is working on translations of the recently published Lifting Operation Risk Management (LORM) Guide into multiple languages.

The plan is for the first round of translations to be in French, Spanish, Italian and Polish.

In the meantime, the English version is freely available in the public library section of ESTA's website for everyone involved in lifting operations.

ESTA intends the guide 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 operating companies but also contains information to help clients to manage projects safely.

[View the ESTA Lifting Operation Risk Management Guide](#)



EU defence white paper reopens debate on transport corridors

ESTA has renewed its call for Europe to develop a network of abnormal transport corridors to support the needs of both the military and industry.

Details were contained in a new ESTA background paper sent to MEPs. This was a response to the European Commission's White Paper on Defence Readiness 2030 in which military mobility was one of the key issues.

The White Paper is currently under discussion with key legal and financial mechanisms pending formal approval. Once legislation is passed - expected by the autumn of this year at the time of writing - the strategy will shift into implementation mode.

Abnormal transport is a key element of both industrial and military mobility and is instrumental in transporting military equipment across Europe and to third countries.

The full text of the ESTA background paper is in the public Library of the ESTA website.

No change at the top - Fabio Belli re-elected President

Fabio Belli was unanimously re-elected as ESTA's President for a second three-year term by the association's General Assembly at its April meeting in Munich.

Belli currently holds the positions of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Kerry Project Logistics Group and is Senior Advisor to the Board of Autovictor. He is a former CEO of Fagioli and has worked in the heavy lifting and abnormal transport sector for over 20 years.

The ESTA General Assembly also re-elected Rainer Sasse, CEO of Luxtrailers, as ESTA Treasurer, along with two board members - Łukasz Chwalczuk from OSPTN in Poland, and David Collett, Managing Director of Collett & Sons from the UK.

ESTA Awards 2025 recap - in case you missed them

Full details of the hugely successful ESTA Awards 2025 held in Munich last April are on the awards section of the ESTA website.

Included are descriptions, photos and - where allowed - videos of the winners and finalists, information about the sponsors and a picture gallery from the awards evening itself.

We look forward to seeing you in Noordwijk, the Netherlands on the evening of April 16 for the ESTA Awards 2026.

2025 ESTA Awards Picture Gallery | 2025 Awards Winners



Website available in multiple languages

ESTA's website - estaeurope.eu - is now available in French, German, Italian and Spanish, as well as English.

The website also contains more detailed versions of all of these stories.

