

DECEMBER 2023

ALSO FEATURING  
THE CFTS EXAMINER  
NEWSLETTER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UK MATERIAL HANDLING ASSOCIATION

UKMHA



**UKMHA**

UK MATERIAL HANDLING  
ASSOCIATION

[www.ukmha.org.uk](http://www.ukmha.org.uk)





“ Today it’s a missed delivery. Tomorrow it’ll be my job. ”

50% of customers penalise suppliers for missed deliveries.\* If your equipment power fails, you jeopardise today’s deliveries and tomorrow’s business.

**Are you at risk? When it comes to power, EnerSys® can help you choose wisely.**



Find out more: [www.enersys.com/en-gb/throughput](http://www.enersys.com/en-gb/throughput)

© 2023 EnerSys. All rights reserved. Trademarks and logos are the property of EnerSys and its affiliates unless otherwise noted. Subject to revisions without prior notice. E.&O.E.

\*As reported on [www.talkinglogistics.com](http://www.talkinglogistics.com)



## Inside this issue:

|  |       |   |    |
|--|-------|---|----|
| <b>Chief Executive's Foreword</b>  | 04    | <b>The CFTS Examiner Newsletter</b>                         | 15 |
| Welcome everyone to this latest edition of Uplift, the last for 2023     | 04    | Thorough Examinations in high demand                        | 16 |
| <b>Training Courses</b>  | 05    | LAMMA 2024  | 17 |
| The latest Thorough Examination training courses                         | 05    | CFTS at the UKMHA Safety Convention                         | 17 |
| <b>Latest UKMHA News</b>   | 06    | Visit the CFTS Member Hub                                   | 17 |
| UKMHA updates LPG Cold Starting Advice                                   | 06    | CFTS member audits  | 18 |
| Keep Your Engineers Safe at All Times with the Safe Working Area Charter | 07-08 | A warm welcome to our most recently accredited CFTS members | 18 |
| Review of the Year 2023  | 09-10 | When an inspector calls                                     | 19 |
| Big Names Return for IMHX 2025   | 11    | Setting the record straight                                 | 20 |
| <b>UKMHA Audit Accreditation</b>   | 12    |   |    |
| Major Landmark Reached for UKMHA Member Audits                           | 12    |   |    |
| UKMHA Member Audit   | 13    |   |    |

# Welcome everyone to this latest edition of Uplift, the last for 2023

How quickly the year seems to have gone. It seems only a short time ago that we were talking about what the prospects for 2023 might be given the rather challenging economic conditions of the time.

It has remained a tough year for the material handling sector with the lingering effects of the pandemic, component shortages, high inflation, reduced demand and conflicts in Ukraine and now Israel and Gaza all influencing events.

Hopefully, the picture for 2024 will be brighter, with growth returning. We have already had some good news with the halving of inflation, let's hope this is the first of a much needed shot-in-the-arm for the industry.

The latest forecasts from our consultants at Oxford Economics will be released imminently, hopefully these will indicate brighter times ahead for the material handling sector.



**Tim Waples,**  
Chief Executive, UKMHA

*Our consultants at Oxford Economics were predicting a two per cent growth in counterbalance orders for 2024 as the harsh conditions began to ease.*

As we approach the end of a year, it is a time for reflection and in this issue of Uplift we take a look back at some of the events that have been staged by the UKMHA for its members, as well as the big ticket safety campaigns which characterise so much of the association's work.

As you can never be too safe, our work promoting safety will continue into 2024, with new campaigns and new themes set to characterise the association's work but one thing that won't be changing is the UKMHA's commitment to benchmarking best practice and raising industry standards.



**And on that note, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2024.**

**2%**  
predicted growth in counterbalance for 2024

# Training Courses

## Thorough Examination

– New Engineer

Dates:

**January**

Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th

**Time:** 9:00am – 5:00pm

**Venue:** SMB College - Stephenson Campus, Coalville

**Description:** These highly practical courses are designed for experienced\* engineers and concentrate on the inspection of chains and forks, current legislation, documentation and the responsibilities of a competent person.

### Subjects covered include:

- The Engineer's role
- Inspection criteria for lift chains and fork arms
- Organisation of Thorough Examinations and the examiner's role
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)
- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER)
- Guidance on how to conduct Thorough Examinations

Upon completion, candidates are recorded on a central UKMHA register. This is valid for five years.

\*The course is only open to engineers who can demonstrate their ability to inspect the automotive, electrical and hydraulic components of a fork truck.

[Find more details here](#)



Engineers who cannot travel to the college can book onto one of our regional training courses delivered by our dedicated CFTS Training Manager. Courses take place around the UK.

Existing CFTS members can book a place on one of these courses by logging in to the CFTS Members' Area [here](#) and visit the Member Hub.

For more information please email [training@thoroughexamination.org](mailto:training@thoroughexamination.org) or call 01344 623 800



## Thorough Examination Revalidations

Dates:

**December**

Wednesday 13th

**January**

Thursday 18th

**Time:** 9:00am – 5:00pm

**Venue:** SMB College - Stephenson Campus, Coalville

**Description:** These courses are exclusively for engineers who have previously completed our Thorough Examination course. The training offered brings engineers up to date with current legislation and practices and reaffirms their inspection skills, plus their right to be accredited as a Competent Person. Successful candidates will be registered for a further five years.

[Find more details here](#)

## UKMHA updates LPG Cold Starting Advice

The UKMHA has issued an updated Safety Alert following a spate of failures of LPG-powered forklift trucks.

**Throughout 2023, the UKMHA received numerous reports of premature failures due to the quality of some of the LPG fuel being placed on the UK market. The association said it now appeared that contaminant issues were causing vaporisers to become clogged and in the process, creating a risk of fire.**

The circumstances are currently being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive, which has established the cause of three fires to be a sticking component in one make and model of vaporiser leading to release of unignited gas.

Vaporisers from the affected forklift trucks and a range of other models were tested by the executive's Science Division (SD), which revealed the presence of sticky contamination from LPG affecting all makes of truck.

The association said the manufacturer of the make and model of vaporiser identified by HSE has now made a retrofit modified unit available, via lift truck manufacturers, which will reduce the risk of future fires.

The UKMHA has been closely monitoring the situation in response to concerns from its members. It has now updated its LPG – Cold Starting Safety Alert, which confirms that LPG fuel containing contamination not present historically is being placed on the UK market and that the fuel standard BS4250 does not provide adequate controls for this contamination.

It states that use of contaminated fuel can cause deposits in the truck's fuel system leading to, for example, blocked vaporisers and sticking valves. Repeated starting attempts on affected equipment can release unburned LPG, potentially created a fire risk.

Importantly, the safety alert also provides expanded advice for service/maintenance engineers.

David Goss, Technical Director, UKMHA said the association was aware of a number of incidents where both operators and technicians have attempted to aid starting through unorthodox and unapproved methods.

"Operating and maintenance practices therefore need to consider additional risks," he said.

"Equipment operators and those maintaining and servicing equipment are advised to follow the guidelines as laid out in the Safety Alert."

The Safety Alert is available to download from the UKMHA website. It can be found [here](#)

The HSE investigation is ongoing and the problem continues to pose a risk to all LPG fuelled trucks, irrespective of manufacturer. UKMHA expect the HSE investigation to lead to a revision of BS 4250 and have repeatedly urged that enquiries be concluded expeditiously.

Equipment with many years of proven reliability – both in the UK and around



the world - is liable to experience premature failure when this fuel is used. However, the association said the problem is confined to fuel supplied in the UK only, with issues concentrated in central and northern England.

UKMHA said that as this relates to fuel quality and there are no control measures that truck manufacturers can apply to prevent vaporiser clogging, users may wish to engage with individual fuel suppliers to see if they are able guarantee that fuel is uncontaminated, or of the same composition to that supplied historically, i.e. before these problems started.

They may be able to achieve this by sourcing their supplies from outside the affected area, but certification to BS 4250 does not guarantee this; the only proof would be reliable operation of the equipment.

The HSE investigation is being carried out by a multi-disciplinary team comprising of regulatory, technical, scientific, product safety and industry experts. The executive has said it will share any safety critical or other information as appropriate.



### Safety Alert

LPG – cold starting

Alert No: 0002  
Date: December 2023  
Revision: 2a  
Page 1 of 2

**Description:**



LPG fuel containing contamination not present historically is being placed on the UK market. The fuel standard BS 4250 does not provide adequate controls for this contamination.

Use of contaminated fuel can cause deposits in the fuel system leading to, for example, blocked vaporisers and sticking valves.

Repeated starting attempts on affected equipment can release unburned LPG and present a risk of fire.

Operation and maintenance practices should be revised until the fuel supply chain can guarantee fuel quality suitable for ICE use.

**Advice for Operators:**



Park LPG fuelled vehicles in well-ventilated areas free from flammable material, particularly when parking overnight or for longer periods.

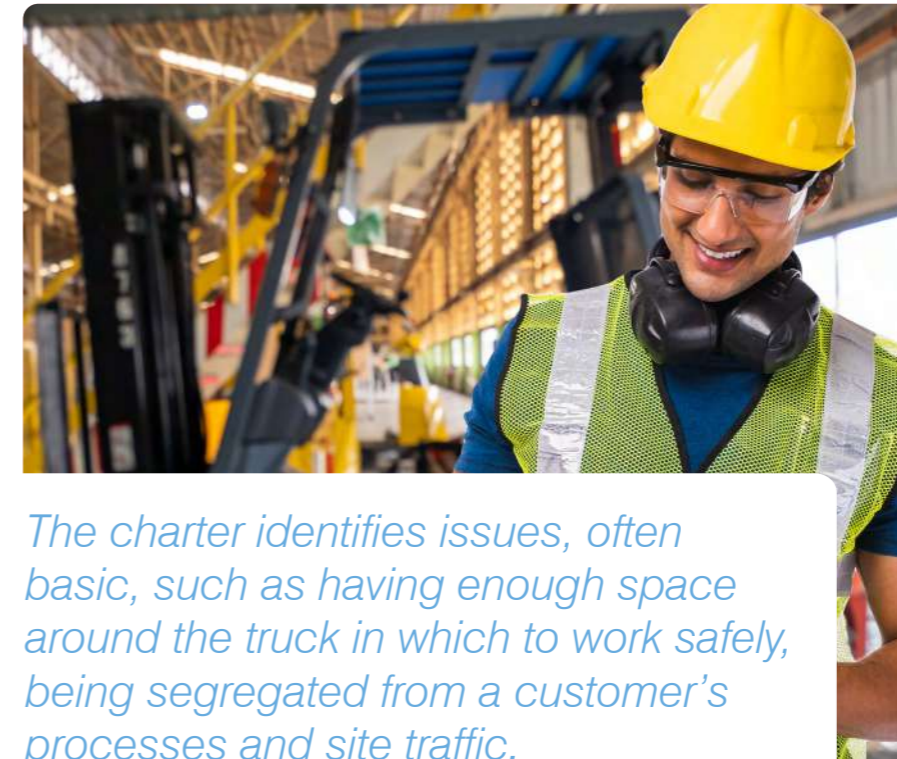
Do not park vehicles where LPG might accumulate, e.g. near to drains or

## Keep Your Engineers Safe at All Times with the Safe Working Area Charter

The Safe Working Area Charter (SWAC) is the latest safety initiative from the UKMHA. It is specially designed to help ensure the safety of service engineers visiting customer sites.

**A large portion of employees within material handling companies are mobile service engineers. Such engineers tend to spend most of their working time on customer premises, sites which in many instances they are not in control of.**

Safety Environment and Quality for the Briggs Group. The SWG, which was established in 2015, comprises a group of health and safety professionals from across the industry who work collaboratively to overcome industry challenges.

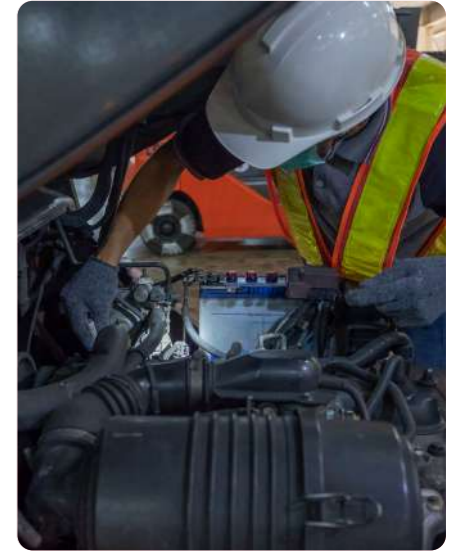


*The charter identifies issues, often basic, such as having enough space around the truck in which to work safely, being segregated from a customer's processes and site traffic.*

Most companies offer a safe working environment for engineers conducting servicing and maintenance on their material handling fleet. However, occasional ones do provide challenges where engineers may not feel totally secure.

It is for these occasions that the Safe Working Area Charter has been instigated. The charter has been drafted by the UKMHA's Safe Working Group (SWG), which is chaired by Scott McGready, Group Head of Health,

On occasions when engineers do not feel the environment provided for them is safe, they are urged to raise any concerns they may have with the customer, who is expected to remedy the situation. Most MHE rental agreements stipulate that the engineer should be provided with a safe working area upon their arrival at the customer's site. However, it is not always clear what this means. This led to the creation of the SWAC, which outlines what health and safety professionals would expect for engineers working at customer sites.



“ The task of the SWG was to contextualise what a safe working area consisted of and what were the requirements of an engineer visiting a customer's site. ”

**Scott McGready,**  
Group Head of Health, Safety  
Environment and Quality, Briggs Group

An analysis of work-related accidents by the SWG found that a third of all incidents were not due to the task of maintaining MHE. Instead, it discovered they were down to external factors identified at customer sites. Mr McGready said the task of the SWG was to contextualise what a safe working area consisted of and what were the requirements of an engineer visiting a customer's site.

The charter identifies issues, often basic, such as having enough space around the truck in which to work safely, being segregated from a customer's processes and site traffic. Where special provision had not been made, the SWG identified a series of issues which had impacted on engineers.

*Continues on following page*

## To be deemed a 'Safe Working Area' the designated work area should be:

- Of an appropriate size, giving sufficient space for the engineer to safely manoeuvre around the equipment with tools and other equipment
- In close proximity to the engineer's van to minimise manual handling travelling distances with tools, spares, and other equipment
- Appropriately and safely segregated from:
  - Vehicle or plant movements - either completely or with suitable barriers
  - Pedestrians, including customer employees, third parties and members of the public
  - Any hazard from customer products, materials, machinery or suspended loads
- Sufficiently well-lit for the intended work activities
- On ground that is solid, firm, smooth, level and appropriately load bearing for the activities being undertaken

## It should also be free from:

- Slip or trips hazards (e.g. poor housekeeping, obstructions, potholes, spillages, puddles, ice, etc.)
- Dusts, fumes, chemicals, residues or biological agents that could be harmful or hazardous to health
- Adverse levels of noise, magnetic field, UV light, radiation, vibration or temperature
- Explosive dusts, vapours or explosive atmospheres – for this reason battery charging areas do not generally make suitable safe working areas; and
- Exposure to biological hazards, e.g. sewage, animals, birds, vermin and their excrement

It should also be appropriately clear from any high voltage electricity services and overhead powerlines or obstructions. If anticipated work activities may include fluid systems, such as LPG or hydraulics, then the work area should be clear of drains.

## The following should be notified, available and introduced to the visiting engineer as part of site induction:

- **Site specific PPE requirements**
- **Safe and adequate means of escape in the event of a fire or other emergency that requires evacuation**
- **Access should also be available to:**
  - First Aid provisions, should the visiting engineer require them; and
  - A clean functioning toilet facility with adequate washing facilities
  - An indoor or covered work area where reasonably practical



Where engineers are working within a remote area of the site, support should be available from a 'buddy' system.

This is by no means an exhaustive list and specific criteria may emerge for certain sites.

UKMHA members and non-members alike who have engineers attending their sites are being encouraged to sign up to the new charter and demonstrate their commitment to helping improve safety standards across the sector.

The Safe Working Area Charter can be downloaded from the UKMHA website [here](#)

## Review of the Year 2023

2023 has proved to be the busiest year since the pandemic. The UK Material Handling Association has held a number of major events and safety campaigns characterising the activities of the single voice of the UK material handling sector.

2024 promises to be just as busy supporting National Forklift Safety Day, together with the return of The Archies awards and the build-up to the next IMHX in 2025.

The year began with a warning about the prospects for the UK material handling sector in 2023. The optimism from the previous twelve months had waned as external factors beyond the control of the material handling sector combined to thwart efforts to fulfil demand and ship orders.

The lingering effects of the pandemic, component shortages, high inflation, reduced demand and the war in Ukraine were all factors influencing events.

The spring forecast from consultants at Oxford Economics confirmed that inflationary pressures and cost of living issues would continue to dominate the domestic economic agenda. Its prediction was that total bookings growth for 2023 was likely to contract as economic growth remained elusive.

There was more positive news on order backlogs, which the economists said was likely to ease during the year as manufacturers looked to complete orders already on their books and the supply of components improved.

"It will take time for firms to clear the backlog of orders, therefore we have forecast growth of counterbalance deliveries in 2023 with a total growth rate of 18% for class 1 and class 4/5," stated the report.

The counterbalance segment was expected to remain subdued in 2023, with a forecasted fall in orders of around 12 per cent, with classes 1 and 4/5 also declining. However, it said the picture for 2024 looked to be more positive with forecasted growth of 2 per cent in new counterbalance bookings.



**Professor Trevor Williams,**  
Former Chief Economist,  
Lloyds Bank

In warehousing, the rebalancing of the sector following disruption from Covid-19 was predicted to see a decline in e-commerce. The OE analysts predicted a fall in warehouse orders, although the situation was expected to ease from 2024 onwards, with a recovery in orders of 2 per cent next year, rising to 4 per cent in 2025.

A fresh Market Outlook Report has already been commissioned and we look forward to publishing this as soon as it is available.

In May, the association ventured into new waters as it looked to improve its offering to members.

The 2023 Thought Leadership event at the prestigious British Motor Museum at Gaydon in Warwickshire featured experts from the worlds of motorsport technology, finance and the fascinating field of futurism.

Peter van Manen (pictured), the former Managing Director of McLaren Electronics, explained to delegates attending the event how split-second decision making and the use of data was often the difference between winning and losing in the ultimate

motorsport series.

Professor Trevor Williams (pictured), the former Chief Economist at Lloyds Bank, gave an insightful economic overview explaining how politics, demographics and climate change are shaping the UK economy.

Rounding off the programme was a presentation from futurist Tracey Follows. Her expertise in futurism, technology, predicting trends, strategic foresight, business and culture provided a thought-provoking outlook for what the future might hold.

*Continues on following page*



**Peter Van Manen,**  
Former Managing Director,  
McLaren Electronics

The Thought Leadership event coincided with the association's Annual General Meeting. The meeting saw the reappointment of the board of directors, comprising:

- Andrew Woodward (Co-President)
- Simon Barkworth (Co- President)
- Tim Waples (CEO)
- David Callis
- Christophe Mailliet
- David Goss (Technical Director)
- Geoff Martin
- Brian Tilt
- Nick Duckworth
- Mike Barton
- Adam Hughes

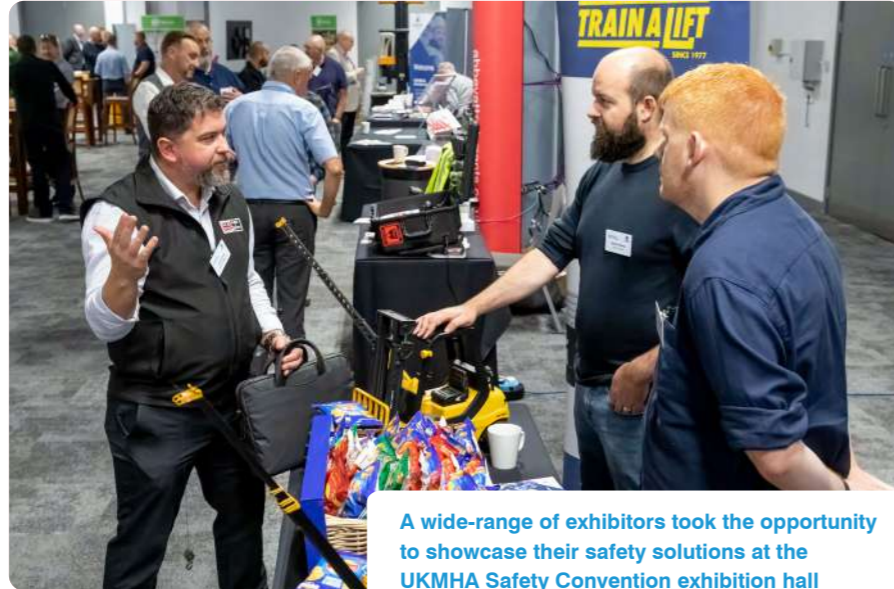
Further appointments included new directors, Brian Tilt, of the Compact Group, and Adam Hughes, managing director of Spartan Forklift Trucks, while the meeting also ratified the appointment of Cameron Burnett as a new director of the UKMHA.

June saw the return of National Forklift Safety Day, with its new theme, Safe Sites Save Lives. The campaign highlighted the importance of correct safety procedures in the workplace, including thorough risk assessments, site supervision, operator training and driver safety.

The safety campaign embraced many facets of the material handling industry, with the intention of curbing the number of accidents in the workplace involving vehicles and pedestrians, although not solely restricted to this.

The association's Safe User Group played a pivotal role in the campaign, encouraging end users of material handling equipment to benchmark their safety protocols against best practice. The role of the SUG in the promotion was crucial to its success and was characterised by its own slogan, 'UKMHA – Setting the Benchmark on Site Safety'.

The safety theme continued with the National Safety Convention in October. The convention, which took place at the CBS Arena in Coventry, was labelled a major success for the intuitive way in which it approached the key safety issue of Implementing a Safety Culture in the workforce.



A wide-range of exhibitors took the opportunity to showcase their safety solutions at the UKMHA Safety Convention exhibition hall

Delegates attending the event heard from a diverse programme of speakers, each highlighting how a safe working environment often resulted in a more efficient and productive operation.

Keynote speaker John Dillon, Principal Consultant at safety specialist, Anker and March, said that engaging with a workforce and empowering them to take responsibility for their own wellbeing was the key to establishing a successful safety culture.

One story which dominated the year was the issue of fuel problems linked to a spate of LPG forklift truck failures. The UKMHA had been pressing the Health & Safety Executive for months to provide details of their investigation into LPG fuel.

The UKMHA acted after receiving numerous reports about clogged vaporisers. The issue is thought to

be linked to the quality of the LPG fuel coming from a UK refinery, and, in a small number of cases, where prolonged starting attempts have led to release of unburnt fuel, resulting in fires.

In a written response to the association's concerns in October, HSE Chief Executive Sarah Albon said: "Vaporisers from the affected FLT's and a range of other models were tested by our Science Division (SD) revealing the presence of sticky contamination from LPG, although we found no evidence that the LPG supplied falls outside BS4250 specifications."

The UKMHA has recommended that until the matter is fully resolved, both users and service personnel should continue to follow the guidance provided by UKMHA and HSE. The UKMHA Safety Alert can be found [here](#) and the HSE Safety Bulletin, [here](#).



Keynote Speaker John Dillon, Principal Consultant, Anker and March

## Big Names Return for IMHX 2025

The premier exhibition for the UK material handling sector, IMHX, has received a major boost – with more than eighteen months to go before doors open on the event.

**Enhancing the appeal of the show, big name lift truck manufacturers, Toyota Material Handling and Crown have already confirmed their attendance at the show. Toyota will be showcasing their latest world-class materials handling solutions, along with their innovative automation, robotics and AI technologies.**

Also exhibiting, will be Bobcat, plus a vast array of suppliers, training providers, dealers and a host of other businesses from the handling, logistics and supply chain sectors.

Thousands of visitors are expected to attend the show, many of them qualified buyers with budget authority to spend. You can maximise your chances of

“ IMHX is a must-attend event for all those working in the material handling, logistics and supply chain sectors. It is an unmissable opportunity to meet fellow professionals and engage with procurement specialists from across the industry. ” **Cameron Burnett,** Director, UKMHA



securing new business by exhibiting at the show.

And right now we have a special limited time offer which means you could be appearing at the show for a lot less than you think.

**IMHX<sup>TM</sup> 2025**  
THE LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS SHOW  
9 - 11 September | NEC Birmingham, UK

For details on how to exhibit at IMHX 2025, follow the link [here](#)

## LIMITED TIME OFFER – SAVE ON THE COST OF EXHIBITING AT IMHX

Book your stand now to enjoy early bird rates on exhibiting at IMHX 2025. But hurry, this limited time offer ends 31st January 2024! UKMHA Members enjoy 20% discount on the cost of exhibiting at IMHX 2025 – T&Cs apply.

### Benefits of Exhibiting at IMHX 2025:

- Meet qualified buyers with budget authority to spend
- Demonstrate your latest products to an engaged visitor audience
- Grow your order pipeline with business-building opportunities
- Raise your business profile and grow your list of potential customers
- Participation in a host of networking events

# Major Landmark Reached for UKMHA Member Audits

The UKMHA's Member Audit has achieved a notable landmark with the one-hundredth accreditation being awarded.

The milestone accreditation was awarded to CESAB dealer, Sterling Material Handling. A family-owned business, specialising in material handling equipment sales, hire, servicing and operator training from its premises in Ormskirk and Hyde. The Sterling brand has long been associated with material handling in the north west, with the original business being founded in 1986.



**100+**  
members have achieved accreditation

“Awarding the one-hundredth audit accreditation is a major achievement and I offer my congratulations to all members who have achieved this nationally recognised status.

“This aligns with the UKMHA's goal of raising safety standards across the industry and here's to the next 100 members who complete that audit.”

Lee Medway,  
Compliance Manager, UKMHA

The journey has already begun with the 101st member achieving accreditation.

Rushlift Ltd, a Doosan specialist based in Northampton, uniquely has maintenance facilities at both Heathrow and Gatwick airports. It also employs a nationwide team of highly-skilled engineers, operating from networked service vehicles, maintaining all brands of material handling equipment, with diagnostic testing equipment and a full range of replacement parts.

## Other recent audit accreditations were awarded to:



### Cable Fork Truck Services

Cable Fork Truck Services has a wide range of material handling equipment sales and hire services. We are a family-owned business based in Harlow and server throughout Essex, London and the Home Counties.



### Mexmast

Mexmast have been maintaining, hiring and selling forklifts for over 30 years and proud to be the South Easts largest independent forklift dealer.



### Permat Fork Lift Trucks

Permat Forklift Trucks Limited was established in 1981 and has grown to be one of the largest independent material handling suppliers in the UK. We have grown to provide our services nationwide.

# UKMHA Member Audit

## Your Badge of Honour

Did you know that the UKMHA's Audit is a free of charge membership benefit, specifically created to ensure that the Association's Full Dealer Members are legislatively compliant, and they follow industry best practice in all other areas that are not necessarily covered by legislation. It ensures consistently high standards and compliance across areas of business operations including safety, health, environmental and risk management. However, in addition to being audit compliant, members completing our accreditation can also testify to gaining a competitive edge in the marketplace.

In an industry where safety is paramount, the Member Audit focuses on legal obligations and working procedures, helping ensure operations are safe and compliant with legislation, also ensuring that changes in best practice are met. Upon joining the UKMHA, new Full Dealer Members are required to abide by a stringent Code of Practice (CoP) and complete the Member Audit as part of the onboarding process.

The CoP is a commitment on the part of all Dealer Members to deliver competent service to customers, with all work conducted by fully trained engineers, using high quality parts, the use of a UKMHA-approved hire contract and for full peace of mind, have in place insurance cover of more than £5m.

The pledge undertaken by Dealer Members means that they will take their time to understand their customers' needs and that the equipment supplied is right for the customer's requirements. Above all, UKMHA Members are required to behave with integrity.

Underpinning the CoP is the UKMHA's thorough Member Audit. The audit has been developed specifically for the material handling equipment industry and is intended to be a real badge of honour for the member achieving accreditation.



## What happens during a Member Audit?

Unlike many other accreditations that only use an online questionnaire, the UKMHA Member Audit involves a physical on-site visit from our own Compliance Manager, Lee Medway. Who not only checks and measures compliance, but provides advice, guidance and can also collaborate with the dealer to implement corrective actions.



## What are the Benefits to Your Customers?

The benefits to your customers from receiving accreditation are many. Customers can be confident that by employing the services of an audit accredited Member, mean they are partnering with a company that has an ethical business attitude, one that fully abides with the Association's CoP and is legislatively compliant. Also by using a UKMHA audit accredited dealer, customers have real peace of mind. As they know that the dealer has measured up to an industry-led health check and operates to nationally agreed standards. Clearly differentiating it from unaccredited businesses, therefore removing a potentially weak link of traceability and accountability in the customers supply chain.

## Why undergo Audit Accreditation?

Feedback from new dealer members unanimously indicates that one of their primary reasons for joining the UKMHA was to achieve audit accredited status. Audit compliance means they can offer their customers an enhanced level of service, crucially giving their business a competitive edge in the marketplace.



# BOOK A STAND AT IMHX 2025

## LIMITED TIME OFFER – SAVE ON THE COST OF EXHIBITING AT IMHX

Book your stand now to enjoy early bird rates on exhibiting at IMHX 2025. But hurry, this limited time offer ends 31st January 2024! UKMHA Members enjoy 20% discount on the cost of exhibiting at IMHX 2025\*.

\*UKMHA Member 20% discount applies before and after the price rise on the 31st of January 2024.



DECEMBER 2023

# THE CFTS EXAMINER NEWSLETTER EXAMINER



FIND OUT MORE

# IMHX<sup>TM</sup> 2025

THE LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS SHOW  
9 - 11 September | NEC Birmingham, UK







**Matthew Kennedy**  
CFTS Technical Manager for the South,  
Birmingham and the West



**Adrian White**  
CFTS Technical Manager for the North,  
Scotland and Ireland



**Kevin Michel**  
CFTS Training Manager

[www.thoroughexamination.org](http://www.thoroughexamination.org)



## Thorough Examinations in high demand

Looking back on 2023, it's been another busy but productive year.

**Despite spiralling costs and high inflation affecting the UK, demand for CFTS-accredited Thorough Examinations increased by 14% during 2023 and as a consequence, truck users can seek guidance and safety inspections from more than 800 locations nationwide. (See the list of our newest members on page 18).**

Like all businesses, CFTS-accredited companies will need to manage high energy prices, and supply chain issues, as well as meeting increased customer expectations. All the evidence suggests that they are succeeding.

There are still challenges ahead. Our sector still faces a shortage of qualified engineers throughout and we would encourage CFTS members to be creative in maximising staff retention. That means investing in good quality training and offering flexible working conditions including a combination of competitive salaries and benefits. To find out more on CFTS Training see page 19.

What will remain a constant, will be the quality of inspections and customer support offered by CFTS-accredited companies. Our members continue to offer reliable, consistent Thorough Examinations and in-depth paperwork that will ensure customers have safe equipment and can avoid unnecessary downtime.

As we move into 2024, we will be upholding this standard through ongoing member audits (see more on page 18). And we look forward to welcoming more companies to our ever-growing network.

## LAMMA 2024

Every year there are preventable accidents involving farming equipment. To minimise the risk of mechanical failure, it's essential that equipment undergo comprehensive inspections delivered by a competent person.

**CFTS will be exhibiting at the LAMMA 2024 agriculture event at stand 120 in Hall 6 on the 17th and 18th January, to promote the use of accredited Thorough Examination providers.**

Stop by and say hello to our team, who will be sharing advice to visitors on what Thorough Examinations cover and, importantly, how LOLER is only half the job.

[Find more details here](#)

Or read more about CFTS and its work in the agriculture sector [here](#)



## CFTS at the UKMHA Safety Convention 2023

CFTS exhibited at the Safety Convention 2023 in October, where our team was on hand to provide advice on Thorough Examination matters.

It was great to meet visitors from across the sector, and the team thoroughly enjoyed the day. The event was well received, and we look forward to attending again in the future.



## Visit the CFTS Member Hub

Are you a CFTS member? Don't forget to log in to the CFTS website and check out the Member Hub where you will find a wealth of resources:

- Visit the shop to buy essential Thorough Examination tools designed to take the most accurate and consistent measurements.



- Book training courses from a selection of dates and locations around the UK.



- Purchase Thorough Examination packs for a range of equipment including, standard, attachment and MEWP/other (available in UK and ROI variations).



## CFTS member audits

Audits are a valuable tool to assist members who wish to ensure they are following the correct standards as defined under the CFTS Quality Assurance Procedural Code. The audit often highlights other areas of potential improvement and even explores areas of potential growth – either under a Thorough Examination or through other opportunities.

**CFTS Technical Managers Matthew Kennedy and Adrian White have already visited many members around the UK, with more visits to be scheduled over the coming months.**

Members will be contacted by their relevant Technical Manager to arrange the audit. Or members can contact a Technical Manager at any time to request an audit.

### Why book an audit?

- Get peace of mind that you are up to date on processes and best practice
- Gain an audit membership certificate
- Advertise on your website, etc, that you have been audited, and this proof of compliance offers added customer reassurance
- Proof of working to a high standard
- The audit is a simple process and only takes approximately 1 hour
- Only a few things have to be prepared in advance of the audit

To find out more contact your local CFTS Technical Manager:

North, Scotland and Ireland –  
[adrian@thoroughexamination.org](mailto:adrian@thoroughexamination.org)  
South, Birmingham and the West –  
[Matthew@thoroughexamination.org](mailto:Matthew@thoroughexamination.org)



## A warm welcome to our most recently accredited CFTS members

**Alcor Handling Solutions Ltd,**  
Gateshead

**LMP Services,** Pocklington

**SMS Agricultural Engineering,**  
Stradbroke

**Darren Waters Agricultural Engineers,** Hayle

**Jon Hillyard Training Ltd,**  
Northampton

**Midland Commercial & Lift Truck Ltd,**  
Swadlincote

**Absolute Power Tools,** Melksham

**Genesis Forklift Trucks Ltd,**  
Manchester

**Macade Handling Systems Ltd,**  
Bellshill

**Robert Coates Plant Sales Ltd,**  
Stoke-on-Trent

**Agri-Co Ltd,** Jersey



**AHC Tool Hire,** Clackmannon

**MacLeod Vehicle Services Ltd,**  
East Lothian

**Brittons Forklift Hire,** Wednesbury

**WPR Farms Ltd,** Bedlington

**RGC Thorough Examinations,**  
Abertillery

**Lift Truck Solutions Ltd,** Staines

**DB Plant & Agri Services,** Skelmorlie



## When an inspector calls

### What happens in an HSE inspection and what sounds alarm bells?

A systematic and detailed examination of lifting equipment, otherwise known as a Thorough Examination, has been identified as a key indicator of a company's overall approach to health and safety.

That is one of the important take-aways from an informative and engaging presentation by Kanwal Kanda, HM Principal Inspector, HSE Transport Sector, at the recent UKMHA National Safety Convention.

After all, if a forklift truck is not maintained and examined regularly to ensure it is safe, what does that say about the health and safety standards within that organisation?

Speaking on the convention theme: Implementing a Safety Culture, Mr Kanda presented a case study in which an employee sadly lost his life, using the circumstances to explain what happens during an HSE inspection, and what will be assessed.

“Our inspectors will evaluate the effectiveness of management arrangements within an organisation, focusing on how successful management is in:

- Setting policies/standards, monitoring and enforcing compliance
- Ensuring everyone throughout an organisation is committed to safety and allocating specific responsibility to individuals throughout an organisation
- Communicating effectively and ensuring everyone is working together
- Building capability and competence



**“These are clear indicators of an organisation's approach to health and safety and if deficiencies are found in any of them, then inspectors may well take enforcement action to secure improvements.”**

Mr Kanda explained that the duration of an inspection can vary according to a number of factors, including company size, complexity and work activity. The inspector does not have the luxury of assessing health and safety in all aspects of the business which means they must focus on a few key behaviours that reflect a broader picture.

In terms of forklift trucks and other workplace transport, these typically include:

- Thorough Examination and maintenance of lift trucks
- Arrangements for ensuring lift trucks and pedestrians can move around in a safe manner around the workplace
- Competence of lift truck operators

Commenting on Mr Kanda's presentation, Geoff Martin, Chairman of CFTS said: “Health and safety is paramount in any workplace that operates forklift trucks and other materials handling machinery. And, as was made very clear at the Safety Convention, that means equipment must be regularly maintained and receive Through Examinations that meet the requirements of both LOLER and PUWER.”

If you are in any doubt about what that entails, visit the CFTS website for more information at [www.thoroughexamination.org](http://www.thoroughexamination.org) or gain friendly and obligation-free advice from any of the 800+ CFTS-accredited depots across the UK.

For further advice visit the HSE website at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/thorough-examinations-lifting-equipment.htm>



## CFTS training

CFTS Thorough Examination training courses are available at SMB college. For details visit [ukmha.org.uk/training-and-apprenticeships/](http://ukmha.org.uk/training-and-apprenticeships/)

On-site courses are also available around the UK delivered by CFTS Training Manager Kevin Michel.

CFTS members can book a place on one of these courses by logging in to the CFTS Members' Area here and visiting the Member Hub.

For more information, please email [training@thoroughexamination.org](mailto:training@thoroughexamination.org)

### Why book a regional course?

- Less time travelling

Can't make it to the college in Coalville? Find a course being held in your area and minimise your travel time.

- Save money on accommodation

A local course means no need for hotels, helping to minimise expenses.

- Tailored courses

Courses and guidance can be adapted to the equipment used by attendees on that particular day.

- Free chain wear or fork wear gauge

Attendees to New Engineer courses receive a free chain or fork wear gauge. Get yours by booking on a New Engineer course near you.

## Setting the record straight

At CFTS we receive all kinds of questions, but here are a few of our most common, with guidance that might help whether you're an equipment user or a CFTS member.

**Can another inspection company insist that only they can carry out a TE?**

No. The duty to employ a suitable competent person lies with the user of the equipment for customer owned equipment and long-term rental (over 1 year). The duty for short-term equipment rental falls on both the user and the hirer. Service providers or inspection companies cannot insist on who can carry out the inspections, as the user can choose whoever they wish for the Thorough Examination.

**Can an equipment owner disagree with the results of a Thorough Examination?**

A competent person is an experienced engineer trained to determine that equipment is safe for use. The equipment owner has a right to challenge any findings but failure to address faults contravenes LOLER and PUWER and puts them at risk of fines or prosecution.

**Should a service be followed by a Thorough Examination, or should the Thorough Examination be completed first?**

It is paramount that if a service and Thorough Examination are to be conducted on the same visit then the Thorough Examination **MUST** be conducted and reported upon first. This is to ensure the 'Report of Thorough Examination' is showing the condition of the equipment on arrival to site and not the condition of the equipment after repairs/servicing. CFTS also lists preferred methods of organising Thorough Examinations in our Quality Assurance Procedural Code (see section 5).

# UPLIFT

DECEMBER 2023

### UK Material Handling Association

34B Kingfisher Court,  
Hambridge Road, Newbury,  
Berkshire, RG14 5SJ

**Telephone:** 01635 277577

**Email:** mail@ukmha.org.uk



# EXAMINER

### CFTS Ltd

34B Kingfisher Court,  
Hambridge Road, Newbury,  
Berkshire, RG14 5SJ

**Telephone:** 01344 623800

**www.thoroughexamination.org**



[www.ukmha.org.uk](http://www.ukmha.org.uk)

