

### Skanska takes industry leading step to improve MEWP safety

**As part of its commitment to creating an injury free environment, Skanska has today announced that it is taking an industry leading step and launching a new policy relating to the boom-type mobile elevated work platforms (MEWPs) it will allow on its UK sites.**

Over recent months, Skanska has been working closely with manufacturers and suppliers and trialling safety devices specifically designed to guard against crush type injuries to operators and raise the alarm in the event an operator encounters an entrapment situation.

A number of safety devices are now, or will shortly become commercially available in the UK. Therefore Skanska will, as from January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012, require all boom-type MEWPs (IPAF Category 3b) that are hired by the company to have additional crush protection fitted.

Skanska will also require these extra safety features to be in place on all MEWPs provided by Skanska's supply chain as of April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012.

Background to Skanska's policy change:-

- Industry statistics show that between 2003 and the summer of 2009 13 people lost their lives in the UK whilst using powered access, at least six of which involved the elevated trapping of the operator in boom type MEWPs (IPAF Category 3b).
- Across industry, there have also been other serious accidents and near misses which could have resulted in the loss of life.
- In 2008, a fatality involving a MEWP tragically occurred on a Skanska UK site. Following this accident, Skanska has been working closely with the Health & Safety Executive, International Powered Access Federation (IPAF), manufacturers, plant and equipment suppliers, and the Construction Plant Association (CPA) to research and develop methods by which MEWP safety can be improved.
- Following this work, the CPA introduced Best Practice Guidance for MEWPs – Avoiding Trapping / Crushing Injuries to People in the Platform.
- In addition to the measures detailed in the CPA guidance, Skanska believes their policy is required to protect MEWP operators.

**For further information  
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This and other press releases can  
be found at [www.skanska.co.uk](http://www.skanska.co.uk)

Commenting, **Dylan Roberts**, Director of Health & Safety for Skanska UK said: "The safety of those who work with Skanska is a number one priority for us. Following the tragedy in 2008, we felt it imperative to make a step change in the training and competence of users of MEWPs and the introduction of additional safety measures. I am very pleased that we have finally been able to take this step. We encourage the UK construction industry to follow suit."

**Ends**

### Notes to Editors

#### About Skanska:

Skanska is involved in some of the UK's most prestigious projects in both the Private and Public Sectors. Whilst known mainly for our large high-profile schemes, we also undertake many smaller projects including public realm improvements, hard and soft landscaping as well as hundreds of utilities projects each year covering gas, electricity and water.

By combining the skills and experience of our construction operations and those of our Infrastructure Development Business Unit, we have become a UK leader in Private Finance Initiative/Public Private Partnership schemes covering healthcare, education, defence, transportation and street lighting.

In December 2010, we announced our intention to establish a Residential Development Business in the UK. This decision followed a comprehensive review of the UK market, which identified a high-volume, long term need for high-quality residential properties in the UK. This, coupled with the extensive environmental requirements placed on new UK homes fits perfectly with Skanska's knowledge and experience. In January 2011, we purchased our first residential development site in Cambridge.

Our business model is to integrate our core disciplines to deliver project solutions across our chosen market areas. By integrating all disciplines and working together with our clients, our partners and our supply chain, we make a real difference to the delivery of projects. We focus on creating sustainable solutions and we aim to be leaders in green construction, health and safety and business ethics. We work strictly in accordance with the Skanska Code of Conduct and to our Five Zeros, which reflect our core values: Zero loss-making projects, Zero accidents, Zero environmental incidents, Zero ethical breaches and Zero defects.

Our commitment to contribute to a more sustainable world is resolute. In June 2011, we were named the Greenest company in the UK across all industries in the Sunday Times Best Green Companies Awards. We seek to use our position to influence both our clients and our supply chain to make more sustainable decisions, taking a longer-term view over the infrastructure we develop. Our ability to demonstrate real responsibility to people, organisations and the environment in which we work attracts the next generation of talent who want to make a real difference.

Backed by the financial strength of, Skanska AB, we focus totally on our customers in the UK, understanding their needs.

We employ approximately 4,600 staff in the UK and undertake around £1.3 billion worth of work each year. We carry out all aspects of the construction, development and infrastructure process - from financing projects, through design and construction right through to facilities management, operation and maintenance.

Skanska is one of the world's leading project development and construction groups with expertise in construction, development of commercial and residential projects and public-private partnerships. Based on its global green experience, Skanska aims to be the clients' first choice for Green solutions. The Group currently has 52,000 employees in selected home markets in Europe, in the US and Latin America. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden and listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, Skanska's sales in 2010 totalled around £11 billion.