

Aberdeen Harbour Board

Phone: 01224-597000
Fax: 01224-571507
Web: www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk

16 Regent Quay
Aberdeen



Cherry Picker Safety

Cherry pickers or Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs) can provide excellent, safe access to high level work. However, as with all work equipment they must be treated with respect.

- The operator must be fully trained and competent
- The MEWP must be used on level ground and its tyres must be properly inflated
- Outriggers must be fully extended and chocked as necessary before raising the platform
- Don't operate the MEWP close to overhead cables

- Don't allow limbs to protrude into traffic routes when working near vehicles
- ALWAYS wear a safety harness with a lanyard attached to the platform when in use as this provides extra protection against the hazard of falling

These safety do's and don'ts form part of the engineering procedure for the safe use of MEWPs. However, they are also legal requirements under the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regs 1998 (LOLER) and failure to comply fully is to break the law. So lets work smarter and safer.



Safety to the fore on Harbour's new Pilot boat

Aberdeen Harbour Board recently took delivery of its new pilot cutter the 'Sea Shepherd' (pictured above) from the builders, Macduff Shipyards. The boat's name was selected as part of a staff competition.

Harbour staff have, from the project concept stage, worked with the designers, Naval Architects Murray Cormack Associates, to ensure that the health and safety of the crews and Pilots was a top priority.

The single chine full displacement hull was chosen to provide a stable platform for the safe transfer of pilots to and from ships, and a 'Hadrian's Rail' system, fitted to the external cabin will prevent deck crew from falling overboard during pilotage operations.

With the inherent dangers of Pilots transferring at sea, Aberdeen Harbour Board took the decision to equip the boat with three separate systems for the recovery of persons in the water.

And with its twin main engines plus a bow thruster, the boat is highly manoeuvrable during recovery activities.

A specialist Dutch noise consultancy was commissioned to survey the design, and recommend suitable methods of providing acoustic insulation, in order to make the boat as quiet as possible for the crew.

This insulation package is highly successful, and even when the boat's Scania diesels are producing their full 710 Hp, the noise level in the forward cabin and wheelhouse is only 65dB, which is about the level of a normal conversation between two people.

The steel hull is sub-divided into four watertight compartments, giving the vessel a high degree of resistance to flooding, and although 'Sea Shepherd' is classed as a workboat, comfortable accommodation, including a galley area has been provided.

It is hoped that 'Sea Shepherd' will assist in setting high standards of safety for Aberdeen Harbour's Pilotage service well in to the future.

Port Safety Liaison Group gets underway at Aberdeen

Following the successful launch of the Safer Ports Initiative in 2003, Aberdeen Harbour Board are delighted to announce that the Aberdeen Port Safety Liaison Group (PSLG) core member team recently held their inaugural meeting.

The group comprised a cross section of base operators, port residents and regular port users.

The meeting was seen as a real success and it is hoped that the business industries represented can provide help and support to one and other in order to promote a stronger safety culture and to improve safety performance in the port year on year.

The vast network knowledge and experience amongst the group members will be invaluable and

it is the group's vision that local health and safety issues pertinent to us all will be tackled. Already key issues have been raised and plans are afoot to address these at subsequent meetings.

The PSLG will meet on a quarterly basis with Aberdeen Harbour chairing the group throughout its first year.