

2nd July 2016

Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank Vic 3006.

Court ref: COR 2008 004550

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to documentation received and addressed to our Murray Phelps at Fassi 11 Kingston Park Court Knoxfield our company 600 Cranes Australasia Pty Ltd are the sole distributor of Fassi cranes so the response will be from our company being the distributor of that product.

We understand the recommendation from the coroner with regards to the Fassi product is **“that Fassi include in the Use & Maintenance Manual F170A.22 a recommendation that a spotter should always be available to the operator of the crane”**

As an alternative to the coroner’s recommendation the following has been or will be implemented:

- First of all the Fassi F170A.22 is no longer in production and has not been in production since approximately 2012 so it would not be possible to issue a recommendation for this model crane. The only alternative that may be practical would be a supply of a sticker with wording as suggested by the coroner to be placed on the front of the Use & Maintenance Manual of any existing Fassi F170A.22 cranes that are still in circulation? However it would be difficult to locate every Fassi F170A.22 crane in Australia so would suggest that we could add this special sticker as/when the cranes visited our workshops for annual inspection, service or repairs?
- Prior to the coroner’s recommendation all new Fassi cranes have included in the Use & Maintenance Manuals words with similar meaning to the recommendation as hi lited in the attachment being an extract from the latest manual?
- Prior to the coroners recommendation 99% of VLC’s of similar capacity and model as the F170A.22 are equipped with radio remote control as standard to keep the operator away from the base of the crane and thus out of harm’s way as well as provide a clear view of the load.
- Prior to the coroners recommendation 99% of VLC’s of similar capacity and model as the F170A.22 are equipped with Fassi Stability Control (FSC) that offers protection to the operator in that the electronic overload system automatically will derate the crane capacity should the operator not extend the crane outrigger fully.


Hoping that the information provided in our response is of assistance and please do not hesitate in contacting the writer should the above require further assistance?

Yours sincerely



Tony Henson
Managing Director


3.10 – Danger related to the control station

 Before operating from the control station, carefully check there are no dangers for the operator (pay attention to vicinity of operator to the load, position of escapes, etc.).

In case of hazardous or dangerous situations for the operator, it is compulsory to operate the crane from a different control station. If it is not fitted, the crane must be equipped with radio remote control or remote control via cable.

The control station must be properly enlightened, in order to guarantee the safe working of the crane.

Load and working area must be clearly and fully visible to the operator. If this is not possible, the operator must receive instructions (checking the communication efficacy) by another operator who has the full view of the working area. Otherwise, he must provide the crane with a radio remote control, in order to have an unobstructed view of the working area. The operator must instruct his coworker so as to avoid mutual damage during manoeuvres.


 The operator is the only person in charge of the lifting device and its implements, their movements, the load movements and the whole working area of the crane. Check the coworker's working conditions comply with the essential health, safety and welfare requirements.

Controls, control stations, support surfaces, rises and steps to access the stand-up or top seat control station (if fitted) must be clear of snow, ice, dirt (oil, grease, etc.) and any object.

 There is higher risk of falls and accidents for the operator and persons in the vicinity in case of snow, ice and dirt on controls, plates, support surfaces, steps and rises.


During indoor operation, exhaust gases of the vehicle engine must be correctly ejected.

3.11 – Danger related to working area


 Carefully check the working area and assess the possible risks for operator, persons in the vicinity and crane. In particular, pay attention to ground characteristics (see chapter 2 "General specifications"), clearance from scarps (see chapter 6 "Setting up for crane operation"), vicinity of operator to the load, possible impacts against building walls, balconies, gutters, scaffoldings, tree branches, other lifting devices or machines, electric lines or anything that could interfere with the manoeuvres.

Operate the crane with adequate lighting to perform crane work safely (see EN 12464-1 and EN 12464-2 - Light And Lighting - Lighting Of Work Places).

Load and working area must be clearly and fully visible to the operator.

 It is prohibited to stop or pass under a suspended load.

Take proper measures to avoid the risk that various elements fall on operator, crane or control system.

 It is compulsory to enclose the working area. No one shall stop or pass in the crane working area. In this area it is forbidden to carry out other tasks.