



UPDATE



Spring, 1990

Bowater, Alabama Pine Join User Group

In January and March of 1990, we received orders for one 40 ton capacity log boom crane from B.L. Montague for Bowater Carolina and one rotating crane from Parsons & Whittemore, Alabama Pine Construction Co. These cranes are scheduled to ship later this year.

PM Alert: Hoist Drum Coupling - Malmedie

Many P&H portal crane users have Malmedie couplings connected to their hoist drum. These couplings must be lubricated. We have had three instances of failure because they had not been lubricated. The lubrication point is difficult to see and is easily missed on routine PM. Lack of proper lubrication could lead to premature failure and excessive downtime. If you have any questions regarding proper maintenance of the hoist drum coupling, contact P&H.

The importance of lubricating this coupling cannot be over emphasized. Should this coupling fail, there could be no other effective braking device.

High Wind Alert

Portal cranes should be tied down when left unattended and parked. We have found that winds do come up on occasion very suddenly and can push the crane down the track, leading to crane damage. All cranes should have hurricane tie downs and these should be in proper working order. Operating procedures at each mill should inform crane operators when and how to connect these hurricane tie downs.

Normally the gantry holding brake, when properly adjusted, provides enough force to give 100% braking force. However, we have found when traveling to various sites that the brakes on the crane are often in various stages of adjustment and some cranes have them off completely.

Operator Back Support in Cab

Some of our users have advised that the operators are experiencing lower back pain during operation of the crane. Chuck Stoneman suggests that the operating procedures should be reviewed to make sure the operators have the benefit of spotting techniques which help to reduce the time spent bending over to watch the load. We are also experimenting with an upper body restraint for additional lower back support and specially cut out cab seats. Our latest generation cabs are addressing the ergonomic aspects of operator control using the feedback we get from the users. If you would like a quote on a new cab seat or cab, please contact Gary Otto.

Reduced Cable Wear

Chuck has observed, when traveling to sites to give advanced operator training, that the portal crane spreader beam is often not level to the machine. One of the main causes of cable wear occurs when the cables do not enter the sheaves in the center. The final adjustment of leveling the lifting beam occurs right at the end of the cable change out. The best way to do this is to put a level on the head after the beam has been reeved to confirm that it is level with the crane.

Main Power Cable Wear

One cause of main power cable wear occurs when the cable reel guides are not aligned with the cable reel itself. Many times logs hit the cable guides and knock them out of alignment, which causes premature wear of the power cable jacket. Power cable flipover pits should never be full of water - they should be checked and drained regularly. New, improved design power cable multi wheel guide roller assemblies are also available to replace the old style double wheel design. Contact Gary Otto for details.

Grapple Power Cable

Whenever a new grapple power control cable is installed, it should be twisted to allow the cable to enter the Mexican Hat and curl around the cone properly. On some cranes, there may be enough room on the trolley deck to allow you to have an extra 10 feet of cable which can be used if the cable at either end becomes kinked or frayed. Note: Spreader flex cable should wind up in a counterclockwise direction.

Control Settings

One of our users reports that they use nail polish to mark control settings on both AC and DC controlled cranes. This gives them a quick visual check to determine if settings have been changed. We reported in past issues that a similar approach can also be applied to structural bolts to provide a visual means of checking to see if the bolts or nuts are backing off.

TAPPI/CPA User Meeting

The second TAPPI/CPA Portal Crane User Meeting was held in Edmonton, Alberta on April 24-26. This meeting was attended by users from 18 different sites, all of which had one or two portal cranes from various manufacturers.

P&H electrical product specialist John Bredberg made an interesting presentation on Smartorque adjustable frequency controls, highlighting the many advantages of this control over all other available controls. He also noted that several P&H/Heede cranes are now being modernized to all motion Smartorque controls. This type of modernization could provide increased performance and reduced maintenance for your crane. More data on these crane modernizations will be provided in future UPDATE issues.

P&H Log Crane User Meeting

P&H will be holding sessions in Milwaukee, possibly in August or September, dealing with replacement parts programs and product support issues. More information on this meeting will be available in our summer issue of the Woodyard UPDATE.

Please let Gary or Tim know if your company is interested in attending the meeting. We plan to limit registration to the first 25 companies.

Crane Availability - E.B. Eddy Forest Products Ltd.

The following chart shows the P&H Portal Crane availability for E.B. Eddy at Nairn Center, Ontario. This crane is a 30 ton straight track portal with P&H AC static stepless control on hoist bridge and trolley installed in 1982.

P&H Portal Crane Availability

(Statistics courtesy of E.B. Eddy FP)

