WEATHER AND WIND CHECKS

Weather and wind play a very important role when working on constructions and heaving lifting machinery like cranes, tower cranes, luffing cranes and crawler cranes.

Some of the hazards the wind can create are (but not limited!):

- Falling objects from height
- Eye injures by flying debris
- Unplanned movement of power lines
- Struck-by incidents due to objects blown around by the wind
- Equipment damaged, dragged or tipped around due to strong wind
- Fall of loads while carrying heavy lifting
- Increased of load due to wind pressure on lifting equipment
- Failure of scaffold and fencing due to wind.

These can be easily prevented or at least reduced by:

- Stop working on the task that poses a hazard due to wind conditions, for example if working at heights or lifting operations
- Jobs involving lifts, cranes and sheathing materials must be properly evaluated with wind conditions.
- Additional PPE may be required (goggles vs. safety glasses against flying dust and debris).
- Do not react or reach for dropping objects (i.e. losing a hardhat in the wind). This can result in slips, falls and strain/sprains.
- All hoarding must be designed/engineered to sustain loads to which it is likely to be subjected, such as wind, snow loads and falling debris.
- Fencing must be set back an appropriate distance from the edge of an excavation - which varies depending on site conditions.
- Where a scaffold is enclosed by a tarp or other cover, induced loads (i.e. wind) must be considered. Consult with the manufacturer's instructions for the scaffold or seek the direction of a professional engineer.

Pre-planning a task is critical to reduce risk to workers. Weather is a major factor in construction and during heavy lifting operations.