Safety commitment unchanged

The changed business landscape in Western Australia and its possible impact on workplace safety was in focus at the annual IFAP/CGU Safe Way Awards presentation in Perth.

Speaking at the SKILLED gala dinner, the company’s General Manager – Western Region David Timmel told guests that many colleagues had been affected by factors well outside their control and were facing uncertain times as their employers adjusted their business models.

He said that every organisation that SKILLED had dealt with had maintained or increased its commitment to safety. “Not once during discussions have we or our business partners questioned our joint commitment to safety. In times when it would have been very easy to water this commitment down, this has not once entered discussions.”

National Manager Risk States, CGU Workers’ Compensation Llewellyn Jones also referred to the economic challenges faced by many organisations in WA in recent years.

Reflecting on the sustained success of the Safe Way Awards, he said that despite these challenges, the number of organisations entering the Safe Way Awards remained strong with a record 91 entries in 2012.

He said the program aimed to promote improved safety and health by rewarding the efforts of many individuals and organisations who have demonstrated a commitment to improved safety and health in the workplace.

IFAP President David Leith told the 440 guests that the 2012 gala dinner marked the 33rd anniversary of the Safe Way Awards program.

He pointed out that the program was initiated in 1979 to create a focus on safety and health at work. It had become WA’s longest running safety awards scheme.

Among the 50 companies winning Gold Safe Way Achiever Awards are 15 who achieved platinum status for sustaining their performance at gold level for five years in a row.

Platinum Safe Way Achiever Award Winners
Safer crusher maintenance

CME’s safety solution wins innovation award

A Perth engineer’s initiative has minimised the safety risks involved in one of the mining and aggregate industry’s most dangerous maintenance procedures—changing the internal manganese liners on cone crushers.

Across Australia, thousands of crusher liners are changed-out, lifted and transported each year. Sometimes the liners last only a week before they need to be replaced and there’s always been a high element of risk associated with the use of lugs, shackles, bolts and other lifting devices which are often not rated, tested or used correctly.

Concerned over the increasing number of workers who have been injured—some seriously—while carrying out maintenance on cone crushers, Brett Holmes, Product Development Manager for H-E Parts Crushing and Mining Equipment (CME), designed the patent pending LockLift® Mantle Lifting System, which has already attracted huge interest, not only in Australia but internationally.

2012 winner

LockLift® is the 2012 winner of the 2012 SKILLED Safety Innovation Award.

Sponsored by SKILLED Group Limited, the award, assessed by an IFAP and Skilled judging panel, is presented to an organisation that has introduced a leading safety edge initiative to its business.

Due to its composition, it is very difficult to carry out welding with manganese and workplace safety authorities have repeatedly warned about the serious risk of injury or death when sub-standard welding of lifting lugs fitted to internal crusher liners fails.

It’s common industry practice to weld temporary lifting lugs onto the liners to assist with their removal, but the liners are susceptible to carbide precipitation and can become brittle. In one incident in Queensland a lug snapped off while the mantle of a cone crusher was being inspected for signs of wear.

LockLift® is a safe method of lifting liners on and off the company’s cone crushers.

Weighing 360kg, it struck the left foot of a maintenance supervisor who sustained a severe crush injury. All of the toes on his foot were later amputated.

In an incident in Victoria, a liner was dropped while being installed in a jaw crusher at a quarry, striking a length of pipe which ricocheted into a worker, shattering his knee.

CME’s chief executive officer Jeff Smith told SafetyWA that rather than try to devise better welding methods, Brett Holmes has developed a concept using a device that eliminates the hazard of welding.

Easy to operate

And, he says it is a very simple operation and mechanism. No longer is it necessary for a welder to climb onto a crusher and weld on a lifting lug. Instead the LockLift® can be attached to a mobile or overhead crane, which is lowered down on top of the liner, rotated 45 or 90 degrees and pin locked into position before being physically lifted off.

Jeff Smith says the mechanism is fail safe so that if the operator doesn’t rotate it sufficiently, the pin won’t lock into place. There’s also an indicator on the outside to warn if the liner is too thin when an alternative lifting method must be used.

The CEO expects the liner to give CME a big competitive advantage. The company has recently been awarded a major contract with major building materials supplier Boral, where one of the tendering pre-requisites was to have a safe method of lifting liners on and off the company’s crushers.

Jeff Smith says at a recent mining expo in Las Vegas, CME was overwhelmed by the response to LiftLock®.

CME itself has had a renewed safety focus with the company’s workplace injury rate showing a substantial improvement in recent years.
Gold Safe Way Achiever Award Winners

2012 IFAP/CGU Safe Way Awards

Recognise your safety achievements

Entries for the 2013 IFAP/CGU Safe Way Awards close on 8 February 2013. For more information visit www.ifap.asn.au or contact IFAP on 08 9335 3303.