



In the past some tower cranes components such as jib head sheaves were designed with bearings which required frequent lubrication. This was often carried out by tower crane operators as part of their weekly inspection of the crane. Consequently operators had to access parts of the crane structure without adequate edge protection and were therefore required to wear, and be trained to use, suitable fall protection systems.

The majority of tower cranes in service today have components in inaccessible areas that are designed so that they do not require frequent inspection and lubrication by operators. Hence the requirement for the use of fall protection systems by operators for this purpose does not arise in most cases. However, crane owners must ascertain from the crane manufacturers that this applies to **every** model of crane in their fleet.

If operators are required to access areas without adequate edge protection they, must be provided with appropriate fall protection equipment, trained in its use and inspection, and arrangements made for the rescue of suspended persons in the event of a fall.

Further guidance is given in :-

- *BS 8437:2005 - Code of practice for selection, use and maintenance of personal fall protection systems and equipment for use in the workplace.*
- *BS 8454:2006 - Code of practice for delivery of training and education for work at height and rescue.*
- *TIN 013 – Rescue of personnel from height on tower cranes.*