

aba²⁰¹²
WORKPLACE TRANSPORT



Introduction

In 1988 the first Code of Practice detailing operator training for rider operated lift trucks was produced. This document provides guidance regarding the requirements for the training of lift truck operators. The recognition of accrediting bodies in this guidance was designed to “help employers select training organisations who offer a good standard of training”.



In 2010 the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) held a conference to address the way forward for the Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) L117, and the role of the accrediting bodies.

In 2012, and following a period of consultation, representatives of the four main accrediting bodies, namely AITT, ITSSAR, NPORS and RTITB, agreed to form the Accrediting Bodies Association (ABA).

Criteria was formulated in order to confirm eligibility as an accrediting body and member of the ABA, based on previous HSE draft criteria, plus adherence to widely used national and international standards for certification and awarding bodies.

The main areas of the agreement cover standards to which the training providers will adhere, the methods of monitoring applied by the relevant bodies, and the registration of operators by the training providers.

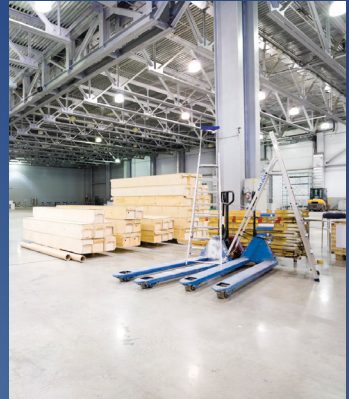
The criteria details the standards that each of the accrediting bodies must attain and adhere to, being regularly audited by an independent external auditing body.

The association provides clarification for training and testing of all workplace transport and MHE operators. It also provides assurance to employers attaining the services of an accredited training provider that training will be carried out as per the standards prescribed in ACOP (L117).



Benefits to the Industry

- Standardised criteria for the delivery of basic operator training, as prescribed in L117
- Clarity regarding training and testing requirements
- Independent assessment of ABA member performance
- All ABA members working to same criteria, therefore reducing the differences between ABA member systems of accreditation/certification
- Improved communication between ABA members, resulting in a reduction of “rogue training providers”



ABA Aim

- To contribute to the reduction of workplace transport accidents/incidents, whilst improving safety through training.

ABA Objectives

- To agree and maintain a common set of standards for the basic skills and underpinning knowledge required to operate workplace transport equipment, in line with all relevant and current legislation and approved Codes of Practice, for the benefit of the industry.
- To agree and maintain common operating criteria and suitable evidence for compliance with such criteria for members, against which each member will be audited and measured.
- To agree and maintain a common sanctions policy and rectification timescales for members who fail to meet the agreed common operating criteria.
- To increase the awareness of, and membership of, the ABA.

How the ABA Operates

- ABA Constitution which details aims, objectives and how the association is run.
- ABA Code of Conduct, detailing how members are expected to conduct themselves, including competition law compliance.
- ABA Operating Criteria which is based on;
 - Previous HSE draft criteria
 - International standard for bodies operating certification systems (BS EN 45011)
 - Awarding body codes of practice
- Annual external independent auditing of each ABA member to ensure compliance with Operating Criteria.
- Clear 4-level sanction system for non compliance with operating criteria;
 - Level 1: Action Plan
 - Level 2: Suspension of ability to certificate trained operators
 - Level 3: Suspension of ABA membership
 - Level 4: Withdrawal of ABA membership
- All documents pulled together under one cover, 'The ABA Code of Practice' will be available to those organisations wishing to join the ABA, and those who are accredited by an ABA member.

