

Robert Cotterill

Associate Consultant



BSc (Hons) CEng MIMechE Tech IOSH

Expertise

Mechanical Engineering and Machines	Health, Safety and Disease
Lifts, Cranes, Forklifts, MEWPs, Lifting Tackle	LOLER
Pressure Systems & Equipment	PUWER
Workplace Transport, Mobile Plant	PSSR 2000
HGV, LGV, Trailers, transport, containers	PED & TPED (CDG)
Warehousing, Logistics & Distribution,	Conformity Assessment
Slip and Trip, Pendulum testing	Machinery Directive (CE marking)
Management Systems	Vibration at Work (HAVS/VWF)
Play and Recreation	Work at Height
Recycling Equipment	PPE
Refrigeration, Cold Storage and Cryogenics	ISO9001 - Quality
Building Services, Air Conditioning, Heat Pumps	ISO17020 – Inspection
Fairgrounds & Theme Parks	HSG175 – Fairground safety

Experience

Rob Cotterill is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer with more than 30 years' experience in mechanical engineering, maintenance, inspection, equipment conformity, health, safety and quality matters. Having worked as an Engineering and Facilities Manager within the Logistics and Distribution Industry for over 20 years, he has experience of a wide range of plant, equipment and building services. These include overhead and mobile cranes, passenger and goods lifts, refrigeration and air conditioning, pressure systems, heating, ventilation, sprinklers, fire alarms, lighting, emergency lighting, automatic doors, dock levellers, forklift trucks, traction batteries, lifting tables, cranes, mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPS), conveyor systems, mobile and static racking, shelving, ladders, steps, stairs, shredders, balers, compactors, generators, delivery vehicles and trailers, pallets, roll cages, flooring, mezzanines & PPE.

His more recent professional experience includes working internationally as an Engineer Surveyor for a Type A UKAS accredited inspection body, carrying out statutory inspection of lifting equipment, pressure systems, local exhaust ventilation (LEV), construction plant, playgrounds and assault courses. He was trained as a rope access Technician for inspection at height. Subsequently worked for UKAS as an Assessment Manager carrying out assessment of inspection bodies for notification purposes performing worldwide conformity assessment on lifting equipment, pressure systems, NDT, gas cylinders, tankers, on/offshore oil and gas facilities, chemical, manufacturing and recycling plants.



He now undertakes forensic investigation, compliance and auditing consultancy work. He carries out general consultancy on all types of mechanical plant and amusement devices but also investigates and prepares single and joint expert reports for civil and criminal cases of personal injury, product liability, industrial dispute, regulatory matters and HSE prosecutions, associated with all of the technical areas described above. He has formal training by the EWI and has given evidence in Court on a number of high profile cases.

Professional Qualifications and Memberships

BSc (Hons) – Chemical Engineering

HNC - Electrical Engineering

Certificate in Management

NVQ (Level 3) – Health and Safety Management

CEng – Chartered Mechanical Engineer

MIMechE – Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Tech IOSH – Technical member of Institution of Occupational Safety and Health

Lead Auditor – ISO9001 and ISO17020

Selection of Experience

Lifting Equipment

LOLER and Work at Height

Acted as an Expert Witness on behalf of a Claimant who received life changing injuries when the Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) he hired toppled over. The case went to Court and evidence was heard from both expert witnesses. The case turned on the Claimant's expert evidence concerning the correct use, or otherwise, of spreader plates. The Claimant won the case.

Disease

Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS)

Acted as a jointly instructed Expert Witness on behalf of the Claimant and three Defendants. It was alleged that a mechanic working within the LGV manufacturing environment had developed HAVS as a result of excessive exposure to vibration at the various Defendants. The site visits, measurements taken and report facilitated a prompt closure of the case with settlement out of Court and apportionment of vibration dose.

Regulatory Enforcement

HSE Prosecution

Acted initially as an advisor to the Defendant in a HSE prosecution involving a fatality as a result of a forklift truck collision within a distribution centre. Consulted with Counsel and the Defendant during development of the mitigation case and prepared a final report for the Court which assisted with a significant reduction in the fine imposed by HSE.

Machinery Safety

Guarding and PUWER

Acted as an expert witness jointly instructed by the Claimant and Defendant in a case where a tyre fitter amputated a finger during use of an electro-pneumatic rotary tyre changing machine. Site inspections and the expert report were unable to confirm the Claimant's account of the mechanism of the accident. It appeared that it could only happen in a different way. The case was discontinued.

Product Liability

Fitness for purpose

Acted as an expert witness for Claimant and/or Defendant following accidents to investigate the fitness for purpose of various products including a medical crutch, paintbrushes, hammers, insecticide sprayers, step ladders, toys, caravan steps and a contractor's spade. Outcomes varied from settlement to case discontinued.

Amusement Devices

ADIPS and HSE auditing

Approved auditor for ADIPS for assessment of diligence and competence of ADIPS inspection bodies. Provides training and guidance to ADIPS inspection bodies seeking UKAS accreditation. Acted on behalf of HSE to provide expert opinion on the likely diligence of inspection and maintenance conducted on a theme park roller coaster following an accident.

Employment History



Finch Consulting Limited

Associate Consultant

February 2017 - present

General Consultancy and Expert Witness

Finch Consulting Limited

Principal Consultant

October 2011 - present

General Consultancy and Expert Witness

UKAS

Assessment Manager

May 2009 - August 2011

The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the sole provider of accreditation services to the UK market working under the Multilateral Agreement for international accreditation (MLA).

Worked as part of the Engineering Inspection Business managing a portfolio of 37 UK inspection bodies primarily in the oil and gas industry conducting and reporting assessment directly to ISO 17020 but also witnessing and competency assessing the personnel against Regulations such as LOLER, PSSR and CDG.

Ashdale Engineering Limited

Engineer Surveyor

September 2006 - May 2009

Ashdale are a UKAS ISO17020 accredited inspection body providing bespoke statutory compliance solutions to a range of blue chip customers. Provided the full range of statutory inspection competencies including LEV assessments, lifting tackle and machine inspections, pressure and boiler systems. Conducted high level structural inspections using rope access techniques.

RS Components Ltd

Plant and Services Manager

2001 - 2006

I managed the maintenance and facilities of a large automated distribution centre with a department of 31 technical staff across 3 shifts, providing full technical, health, safety and facilities support.

Toyota (GB) Ltd

Plant Engineer - Engineering Manager - Facilities Manager

1990 - 2001

I managed the maintenance and facilities of the Toyota UK Parts Distribution Centre (PDC), developed the asset register while also taking responsibility for quality, environment and site health and safety.

Amalgamated Distribution Ltd (ADL)

Engineering Manager

1989 - 1990

Maintenance and facilities management at a Regional Distribution Centre (RDC), a multi-temperature facility serving 30 local ASDA stores with all of their grocery requirements.

Christian Salvesen (Food Services) Ltd

Plant Engineer

1982 - 1989

Assistant project engineer for the construction of a 2.5 million cu. ft. public cold store. Subsequently became plant engineer responsible for maintenance of all plant, equipment and building fabric. Set up and ran the asset management system.