Mix and Mash

Liebherr has issued a technical note warning users not to combine tower crane sections from different crane manufacturers. In 1993, the German industry’s liability insurance association argued that combinations of components from different manufacturers required these cranes to be certified by a third party expert.

Anyone who combines crane parts from different manufacturers puts a new machine in circulation—and that person, in legal terms, becomes a manufacturer and is responsible for declaring that the crane conforms to CE safety standards. Traditional manufacturers base their safety standards on large-scale testing, which only they have access to, it said. One cannot reason that if every single part conforms, the entire machine conforms, because the combination of the parts creates new risks.

In other words, cranes made up of components mixed together from several different manufacturers are not legal.