How Steve Foster Cranes Eliminated Manual LOLER Compliance with CheckedOK and RFID

Steve Foster Cranes Limited, a Derbyshire crane hire business, transformed equipment management across its entire operation. Handling everything from CPA crane hire to complex contract lifts with cranes from 7 to 300 tonnes, their biggest challenge was handling heavy equipment safety and legality while buried in paper-based LOLER compliance. Manual processes were becoming an operational risk.

The Challenge of Manual Compliance Systems

Running compliance manually meant facing critical inspection issues and auditing headaches.
Vincent Whalley, Yard Operations Manager at Steve Foster Cranes, explains:
"We faced significant challenges in keeping track of our lifting equipment and monitoring when certifications were due to expire. With such a large volume of equipment, some items were occasionally missing their LOLER inspections."
The audit process consumed time. *"Auditing was also extremely time-consuming, as it involved manually searching through individual pieces of paperwork to find the right records."*
Strategic decisions suffered due to limited history: *"We had limited traceability of each item's history, making it difficult to track inspections, repairs, and usage over time."*
These problems are common among crane hire firms relying on spreadsheets and filing cabinets.

What the client says

I would definitely recommend CheckedOK. It's a straightforward and reliable system that makes managing equipment, inspections and reports so much easier. The time savings, efficiency, and professional results speak for themselves, and the support team are always quick to help if needed.

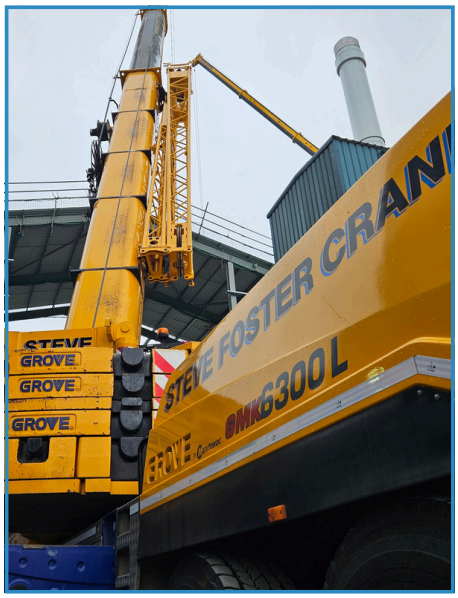
Vincent Whalley
Yard Manager

Finding CheckedOK as the Right Fit

The Time Was Right to Go Digital

"The setup was straightforward following the training provided by the CheckedOK team," Vincent notes. "Transferring and setting up all our existing equipment is never a simple task, but the bulk import options made the migration much easier and far more efficient."

Since CheckedOK's implementation in 2024, Steve Foster Cranes has achieved daily improvements.
"The biggest changes have been the time savings and the consistency the system brings. It has made the team's job much easier, with everything accessible from a phone or tablet, meaning tasks can be carried out anywhere. We've also noticed that CheckedOK continually improves the software, taking on board suggestions from end users, which makes the system even more effective over time."
Time and money are now saved, especially for the in-house testing and crane maintenance team. *"The solution has saved them a considerable amount of time and, in the long term, money, by making everything more efficient."* CheckedOK *"ensures that we now produce accurate, professional reports with ease."*



What Makes CheckedOK Different?

1. Easy mobile-first technology: *"What really stands out is the ease of use – everything can be managed quickly from a phone or tablet, which has transformed how we work day to day."*
2. Reliable ongoing support: *"On top of that, the support from the CheckedOK team has been excellent, with any questions or issues dealt with promptly and professionally."*

Integrating RFID Brought Surprising Benefits

Asset tracking had been a challenge. RFID tech in CheckedOK offered a rugged, weatherproof system that made sense over barcodes. CoreRFID's Richard Harrison helped seamlessly integrate the tags. *"The unexpected benefit has been the RFID integration, which really adds another layer of efficiency and traceability to our processes."* Automatic equipment ID now reduces manual data entry and improves accuracy for inspections and maintenance.

BENEFITS

- **Significant time savings and efficiency gains:** mobile access means staff can complete tasks instantly, wherever they are.
- **Consistently better compliance:** automated scheduling and clear digital records keep all inspections on track and reports reliable.
- **Greater traceability:** RFID tags allow quick, accurate equipment identification, cutting manual work and improving data accuracy.
- **Fast, reliable support**: the CheckedOK team responds quickly to any issues, and ongoing updates ensure the system keeps improving.

Better Compliance Means Better Customer Service

Efficiency and compliance improvements directly impact customers. Vincent sums up: *"By improving our efficiency, compliance and record-keeping, it indirectly benefits our customers by ensuring our equipment is always maintained to the highest standard and inspections are never missed."*

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