



RAISING the standard

news from **IPAF** supporting the world of powered access

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www.ipaf.org

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IPAF targets youngsters at APEX



IPAF is launching a major campaign to attract young people to the access industry, starting at the APEX show in Maastricht. IPAF is at stand 1145 in the MECC.

A sub-group led by Roger Bowden, chairman of Niftylift and IPAF's Manufacturers' Technical Committee, is developing an IPAF engineering apprenticeship designed to lead to a "technician" level qualification.

IPAF is also launching the Job Access challenge among colleges in Europe. The not-for-profit trade federation is looking for manufacturers and rental companies to sponsor 18-year-olds from technical high schools who will be trained to operate access platforms safely and through that process, to obtain a PAL Card (Powered Access Licence) as proof of training. Job Access will culminate with a competition on the IPAF stand at the INTERMAT 2009 show, where teams of young people will have to complete various tasks using access platforms safely.

IPAF will give a 30-minute presentation on Job Access at the APEX Conference on the morning of 17 September.

Other IPAF meetings during APEX include:

- **IPAF Manufacturers' Technical Committee (members only)**
18 September, 9:00, MECC, Berlin Room
- **IPAF Mast Climbing Work Platform (International) Committee**
18 September, 14:00, MECC, Berlin Room
- **IPAF European Rental Forum**
18 September, 14:30

Bid for tickets to the APEX château party. Visit the IPAF stand 1145 on 17 September between 10am to 4pm to take part.

Europlatform focuses on futuristic rental companies

"The access rental company of the future" is the theme of the second Europlatform conference in Maastricht on 16 September 2008, the day before the APEX show.

The conference will consider the long-term potential for the access rental business in Europe and why it can benefit rental companies to become "ethical" players. There will be a table top exhibition that attendees are free to visit.

Speakers include Chris Wraith from Lavendon Access Services, who will present a zero tolerance approach to accidents, and Jeff Eisenberg from Riwal, who will look at financing a rental business the modern way.

The conference is being held at the Grand Hotel de l'Empereur, opposite Maastricht's main railway station and within walking distance of the town centre. The event includes an evening reception after the conference closes. See the programme and booking details at www.europlatform.info



"Only dummies don't wear harnesses on booms"



IPAF has released a dramatic video that shows the dangers of not wearing a full body harness on boom type platforms. The video is available in English, Dutch, French, German, Italian and Spanish. It can be viewed and downloaded at the Publications/Film section of www.ipaf.org. Alternatively, e-mail your request for a free copy to info@ipaf.org

Visit us on stand 1145



Safe use guidelines now available for MCWP users in the US

IPAF, together with Kevin O'Shea of Mastclimbers LLC, has published guidelines to ensure that mast climbing work platforms (MCWPs) are installed, maintained, examined and used safely. The guidelines, written specifically for use in the United States, also spell out training requirements and include checklists for daily and weekly inspections.

O'Shea, who also chairs IPAF's International MCWP Committee, explains the importance of the guidelines: "The US is in the same position now that the UK was in, with legislation on design and safe use falling behind product uptake. The British equivalent of these guidelines, BS 7981, and the emergence of a strong design standard, transformed MCWP safety in the UK – MCWPs are now considered to be one of the safest methods of

powered access available. ANSI A92.9 (the US design standard) is being re-drafted and these Safe Use Guidelines will provide the final piece of the jigsaw. Users, installers, manufacturers, rental companies and regulatory bodies will all benefit from this document."

- The IPAF Guidelines for the Safe Use of MCWPs: US Edition 2008 can be downloaded from the Publications section of www.awpt.org

European standard for transport platforms

The Transport Platform Working Group (TPWG) of the IPAF International Mast Climbing Work Platform Committee has started work on drafting a new European standard for transport platforms.

None of the present European norms fully cover transport platform design and use. At its meeting in July, the TPWG analysed several existing standards and guidelines for transport platforms, including the US ANSI A92.10 standard and the Italian and UK guidance documents.

Manufacturers and users wishing to participate in the TPWG should contact the convenor, Romina Vanzi, on mcwp@ipaf.org

Unifying standards

IPAF is represented on European (EN) and International (ISO) standards committees concerned with the safe design of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs). The ultimate aim of being involved on both committees is to harmonise, so far as possible, European and International views on safe design and to work towards a common standard.

The revision of EN 280 will give guidance on the safe design of MEWPs in Europe and a presumption of conformity to the essential health and safety requirements (EHSRs) of Directive 2006/42/EC. Publication of the standard has been delayed due to revisions that are still under discussion on safety related categories for control systems. Nevertheless, the draft standard is largely complete and is expected to be available for public comment in 2009.

Work on the ISO 16368 standard is largely complete and a public comment version is expected in early 2009.

IPAF has successfully lobbied for the revisions of both standards to include common testing requirements, guidance on scissors with extensions and safety harness anchor points. In addition, a requirement to protect against the "sustained involuntary operation of platform controls" has been included in the current draft of EN 280.

"The revised standards are largely identical although there are a few fundamental differences. This has been possible through the hard work of all involved and many frank and open discussions. It seems likely that the constructive dialogue will continue with the aim of achieving a common standard," said IPAF technical officer Gil Male.

www.ipaf.org

Timely information for IPAF members

Knowing where to find information can be time-consuming, frustrating and costly. The Business Information Service from the London-based Institute of Directors (IoD) can help. IPAF members can use this service free of charge. Experienced researchers spend up to 30 minutes answering an enquiry and provide a response within 24 hours. Here are just some enquiries that researchers have answered recently:

- How do I carry out a risk assessment?
- I am looking to do business in India. Can you provide information on how to go about this?

- Can you supply a list of building maintenance contractors in Spain?

IPAF members can phone, e-mail or fax the IoD with their enquiry during office hours, every working day, and they will get an answer within 24 hours, excluding weekends and public holidays.

Tel: +44 (0)20 7451 3100
 Fax: +44 (0)29 7321 0145
 E-mail: businessinfo@iod.com





Italian convention at SAIE

The 6th IPAF Convention of the Italian Powered Access Industry will be held on 17 October 2008 from 14:30 to 18:00 during SAIE in Bologna. The convention will focus on the impact of the new Italian health and safety legislation introduced in April. The IPAF stand in hall 35 will feature demonstrations on the correct use of harnesses and on emergency descent.

IPAF-Italia meets periodically with the Ministry of Labour in Rome to propose measures for harmonised national standards and guidelines that are acceptable for the Italian regions with regard to safe use of lifting equipment, inspections and maintenance, and required operator training levels.

The search for young talent

Good engineers and technicians are hard to come by, so how can the access industry attract more capable young people? An interview with Roger Bowden, chairman of Niftylift and leader of a sub-group that is developing an IPAF engineering apprenticeship, explains.

What direction will the IPAF engineering apprenticeship take?

The most likely direction is to use the existing UK engineering apprenticeship core modules for initial basic training of about six months and then add an industry-specific module of about one week. The week would be a fairly intense immersion into the theory of working with MEWPs, which would be complemented by hands-on practice during a follow-up company phase of the training. This would be a clearly designated and monitored programme.

What will the powered access module contain?

We have developed a comprehensive list of subjects required in the industry-specific module and are working on a more detailed syllabus and qualification structure. Proposed subjects include using MEWPs safely, industry nomenclature, risk assessment and working at height regulations.

based training, including the practical use of MEWPs.

What benefits does the scheme provide?

The engineering technician route provides a solid foundation for companies to develop their apprentices through further learning to degree level. This may well prove an attractive alternative for many youngsters fearful of the present cost of self-funding at university. It could also encourage brighter school-leavers to take this career path rather than the traditional degree route. The sponsoring companies will benefit from the apprentices' skills and industry understanding, which will result in higher quality work, faster progress to full staff competence, and improved customer service.

How will the apprenticeship be funded?

We hope the majority of the cost will be supported by government through existing funding routes. The sponsoring company would be responsible, at this stage, for the added module cost.

How will the apprenticeship be implemented?

The scheme will be trialled and then rolled out across the UK. IPAF can then develop the training in other countries for a relatively small number of apprentices in any one location. There is still much to do, but we hope this scheme will be an effective means to attract capable people to the industry.

- More information will be made available to IPAF members as this scheme develops.

IPAF training goes Caribbean

Chris Buisseret, Rapid Platforms training manager, presenting first qualifying trainee Marlon Munroe, maintenance manager BAMC Portvale, with his IPAF cap, flanked by Don Trotman, maintenance manager BAMC Andrews.



The Barbados Agricultural Management Company (BAMC) based in Warrens, Barbados now has seven IPAF-qualified MEWP operators in the categories Mobile Vertical (3a) and Mobile Boom (3b), thanks to training delivered by IPAF-approved training centre Rapid Platforms Ltd of the UK.

How will the programme work?

The apprentice would arrive at their sponsoring company with a good basic mechanical training and a sound theoretical knowledge of MEWPs after the foundation apprenticeship and industry-specific training. They would then undertake company-

Respecting privacy

IPAF takes privacy and data protection issues very seriously, and constantly reviews its procedures to comply with current laws and regulations.

In line with government recommendations to reduce the risk of identity theft, IPAF has discontinued its previous practice of taking social security numbers (also known as national insurance numbers in the UK) in all training application forms. IPAF has also now deleted all records of social security numbers in its IT system.

Anyone being asked for their social security number when applying for a PAL Card should contact IPAF, as this information is no longer required.

Individual information gathered by IPAF is only used to answer and process inquiries and training applications. Individual information is not used for commercial purposes nor shared with any other organisation or third party, unless required to do so by law or regulators.

Summit venue announced

The next IPAF Summit will be held on 2 April 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Northwood in Dublin, Ireland. It will be preceded by an informal networking event on the evening of 1 April at the Guinness Brewery in Dublin. IPAF has arranged special room rates at the Crowne Plaza Northwood and the Holiday Inn which is just next door to the Summit venue. The special rates expire 1 February 2009. For booking details, see www.ipaf.org/events



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PDS on 24 September

IPAF instructors in the UK should not miss the Professional Development Seminar on 24 September at the Best Western Moat House, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 5BQ.

IPAF has arranged for a discounted room rate of £99 including breakfast. Book four weeks before the PDS and quote "IPAF Seminar".

- Call the hotel direct on +44 870 225 4601.
- See programme and registration details at www.ipaf.org/events

New Members

IPAF welcomes the following new members. Full contact details can be found in the Membership Directory at www.ipaf.org.

COMPANY ASSOCIATE

Heskins Ltd, UK
Plant Training Specialist Overseas Ltd, Thailand

DEALER/DISTRIBUTOR

Premier Platforms, Inc., USA

DEALER/DISTRIBUTOR (GROUP)

Toyota Material Handling, USA Inc.

DEALER/HIRER

Centro Edile Scavi Srl, Italy

DEALER/HIRER/TRAINING

Peinemann Hoogwerkersystemen BV, Netherlands
WEMO-tec GmbH, Germany

DEALER/HIRER/TRAINING/SERVICE

Nunmi Cranes Oy, Finland

DEALER/HIRER/TRAINING/SERVICE (GROUP)

Arbeitsbühnen Vertriebs und Vermietungs GmbH, Germany

DEALER/TRAINING

Kranenbouw Platforms BV, Netherlands

HIRER/RENTAL

Giraffe Access Co Ltd, UK
Plataformas Lozano SL, Spain
Selwood Group Ltd, UK

HIRER (GROUP)/TRAINING

AFI-Arbeitsbühnen Vermietung GmbH, Germany

INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATE

Volquard Molt-Stefes, Germany

MANUFACTURER

Elevadores Alher SA, Spain

MANUFACTURER (GROUP)

Niftylift Inc., USA

PUBLIC UTILITY

Cucamonga Valley Water District, USA

SERVICE

ARM Machinery Ltd, UK

TRAINING

PQT Ltd, UK

TRAINING CENTRES

AFI-Arbeitsbühnenvermietung GmbH, Germany
Alsetrans 2000 SL, Spain
Eurosupply Hoogwerk Systemen BV, Netherlands
GF Lifting, Spain
Kranenbouw Platforms, Netherlands
Lanz Hebebühnen GmbH, Germany
Morrison Construction, UK
Schirmer, Germany
WEMO-tec GmbH, Germany
Wiesecker Werkzeugvermietung, Germany

TRAINING CENTRES (SATELLITES)

AFI - Mannheim, Germany
Higher Platforms Group, UK

USER

Mark Andrew Coombs, UK
Fastnets UK Ltd
Howes Commercial & Industrial, UK
Special Project Solutions Ltd, UK

IPAF Diary 2008

23 September

IPAF Training Committee Meeting (Training Committee only) Best Western Moat House, Stoke-on-Trent, UK

24 September

Professional Development Seminar (for UK instructors) Best Western Moat House, Stoke-on-Trent, UK

8 - 9 October

Ambiente Lavoro Modena, Italy

15 - 18 October

SAIE Bologna, Italy
Hall 35

15 October

Italian Training Working Group Meeting Bologna, Italy

22 - 23 October

Safety & Health at Work Exhibition RDS, Dublin, Ireland
Stand F6

13 - 16 November

EXPOEDILIZIA Rome, Italy

21 November

LiftEx organised by LEEA Oxford, UK

25 - 28 November

bauma China Shanghai
Stand: CEA UK Pavilion E5201

25 - 28 November

SICURTEC Milan, Italy

Did you know? Details on IPAF meetings and events can be found at www.ipaf.org/events

Aerial platforms + IPAF trained operators = Safe effective work at height + Plataformas
Hubarbeitsbühnen + IPAF geschulte Bediener = sicheres und effektives
Piattaforme aeree di lavoro + Operatori formati da IPAF = lavoro in altezza sicuro ed efficace



Contact us for more information:

IPAF hotline: UK 0845 1307775

International +44 (0)15395 62444 website: www.ipaf.org

The world authority in powered access

UK: IPAF
Bridge End Business Park
Milnthorpe, LA7 7RH
UK
Tel: +44 (0)15395 62444
Fax: +44 (0)15395 64686
info@ipaf.org
www.ipaf.org

Switzerland: IPAF-Basel
Aeschenvorstadt 71
CH-4051 Basel
Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0)61 225 4407
Fax: +41 (0)61 225 4406
basel@ipaf.org
www.ipaf.org

Germany: IPAF-Deutschland
Grüner Weg 5
D-28790 Schwaneviede
Germany
Tel: +49 (0)421 6260 310
Fax: +49 (0)421 6260 321
deutschland@ipaf.org
www.ipaf.org/de

Italy: IPAF-Italia
Via Matteotti 40/12
20020 Arese (MI)
Italy
Tel: +39 02 93581873
Fax: +39 02 93581880
italia@ipaf.org
www.ipaf.org/it

IPAF-France
BP7, F-91280
Saint Pierre du Perray
France
Tel: +33 (0)1 30991668
france@ipaf.org
www.ipaf.org/fr

Spain: IPAF-España
Edificio Heraclés, Interior
Zona Franca, E-11011 Cadiz
Spain
Tel: +34 956 297 406
Fax: +34 956 290 610
espana@ipaf.org
www.ipaf.org/es

Benelux: IPAF-Benelux
39 Seringenstraat,
NL-3295 RN 's-Gravendeel
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0)6 30 421 042
Fax: +31 (0)84 710 0518
benelux@ipaf.org
www.ipaf.org/nl



USA: AWPT Inc
225 Placid Drive, Schenectady
NY 12303, USA
Tel: +1 518-280-2486
mail@awpt.org
www.awpt.org

The world authority in powered access • Die weltweiten Experten für den sicheren Betrieb von Arbeitsbühnen
La référence mondiale des Plates-formes et Nacelles élévatrices • L'Autorità mondiale nell'accesso aereo
Autoridad mundial en técnicas de altura • De wereldwijde autoriteit in hoogwerker toegangstechniek