

Harness up!



Nicola Dixon of IPAF shows how a harness should be worn.

Ten members of the IPAF staff completed a harness course at SpanSet this October.

The one-day course covers the relevant legislation, the types of harnesses and lanyards, the importance of CE marks and traceability, the concepts of fall restraint and fall arrest, anchorage points, equipment inspection and maintenance, and the correct use of harnesses in mobile elevating work platforms.

Participants take a written test as well as undergo a practical session where they have to put a harness on correctly. The harness course is available from many IPAF-approved training centres.

Find your nearest one at the Training section of www.ipaf.org

c&a

IPAF focus



The harness course was rich with examples and work situations: (L-R) IPAF's Jean Harrison under the instruction of SpanSet's James Bradshaw

Tachograph or not?

Do you need to use a tachograph if you are towing a trailer-mounted platform? The Quick Guide to Towing Small Trailers from the UK Vehicle & Operator Services Agency (VOSA) answers some frequently asked questions on the use of trailers and the law, covering driving licences, driver hours and weight. In general, you may need to fit and use a tachograph if you use a vehicle in connection with any trade or business or carry goods for hire.

The first question to consider: Is the towing capacity over 3,500kg AND, when added together, is the vehicle maximum weight and trailer maximum weight over 3,500kg? Information about weights can be found in the vehicle manufacturer's plate. If the answer is no, then no tachograph is required. If yes, a tachograph may be required.

The second question: Is the use covered by the exemption under Article 4 3820/85 (see GV262 part 3)? If yes, no tachograph is required. If not, a tachograph is required when the vehicle is used to tow a trailer. Department of Transport publication GV262 is a guide to Goods Vehicle Drivers Hours. It is a free publication available from any main VOSA Traffic Enforcement Office. It explains more fully when and how to use a tachograph. See also the reference guides at the Resources section of www.ipaf.org

IPAF Rental+ for Lifterz

West Yorkshire-based Lifterz has added a feather to its cap and been awarded the IPAF Rental+ quality mark.

The IPAF Rental+ programme sets a series of minimum quality standards for customer service, safety, staff training, contract terms and machine inspection for powered access hirers.

An annual audit plan is in place to ensure that those standards are maintained.

Lifterz is a member of the Access Link whose members have all agreed to work towards achieving the IPAF Rental+ quality mark so that customers throughout the UK and Ireland receive a consistently high level of service from all of the local independent companies.



Light Hire grows its own

Light Hire, an IPAF-approved training centre in Exeter and Barnstaple, is investing in training for its staff to keep pace with the fast-moving access industry.

Paul Roddis, Light Hire's training manager, is leading the initiative. Clive Wotton, Barnstaple depot manager, and Graham Sandford, a technician in Exeter, have both successfully completed a mechanical and electrical course for scissor lifts and hand-held analysers at JLG's training centre in Manchester. Sandford also completed a course in hydraulic and electrical schematics for boom lifts at Genie in Grantham. Light Hire is an IPAF Rental+ company.



Light Hire training manager Paul Roddis (L) congratulates Barnstaple depot manager Clive Wotton.

25th anniversary journal

The IPAF Powered Access Review 2009, a bumper 25th anniversary edition with 72 pages, is out this month.

It features a debate on why you should be concerned with CE marks, articles on inspections and impartiality, MEWPs for managers, and a training centre directory.

Free copies can be obtained by e-mailing info@ipaf.org or visit the Publications section of www.ipaf.org



Summit to be topped with awards dinner

The IPAF Summit on 2nd April 2009 in Dublin will have a new format, ending with an awards dinner to celebrate the global access industry.

The awards will reward best practice, focusing on professionalism, innovation, safety initiatives and outstanding individual achievements. Details of the categories, entry rules and sponsorship opportunities will be announced soon.

The awards will be open to members and non-members. The Summit will be held at the Crowne Plaza Northwood. It will be preceded by an informal networking event on the evening of 1st 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. The special rates expire 1st February 2009. For booking details, see www.ipaf.org/iapa



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IPAF Summit 2009 on 2 April in Dublin