

The art of access

Rochester-based Kingfisher Access was contracted by The White Wall Company, professional art installers and fabrication specialists, to help install the latest Conrad Shawcross sculpture at the Ministry of Justice building in Petty France, London SW1.



Shawcross specialises in wooden mechanical sculptures based on philosophical and scientific ideas. Made entirely from Douglas-fir, a softwood first imported to Britain in 1827, this weighed in at 2.5 tonnes and was 13.4 metres high. "Its size and weight were not the problem," says George Reid, managing director of Kingfisher. "The problem was how to gain access to install the sculpture on site. Not only was space limited but also, more crucially, the maximum allowed floor loadings were such as to prohibit the use of both a crane and an aerial lift. A mobile access tower was



C&a PASMA focus

therefore the obvious choice." "It could be carried in, assembled, inspected and then removed quickly and easily with the minimum of fuss and disruption. In the event it took just five hours to erect and four hours to dismantle." Designed and installed by Kingfisher Access using only PASMA trained erectors, the structure consisted of four Boss 850 aluminium towers with a 12.2 metre platform height and 2.5 metre boards tied together at the corners. Time was at a premium.

The structure was erected on the Friday and the sculpture installed over the weekend. The installation was completed by midnight on Sunday night and the tower removed by 6.00am on the Monday morning ready for the start of the working week. "Most people's perception of an access tower is something between two metres and four metres platform height. This is one of several advanced applications that we have carried out for our customers and demonstrates the versatility of this product," says Reid.

Stamp of approval

PASMA's new stamp of approval will soon be available for use by those companies whose operatives have successfully completed the association's official training course.

It has been created to help promote and identify the people and organisations that are serious about safety and recognise the need for 'competence without compromise'. These are professional firms that comply with the requirements of the Work at Height Regulations and whose operatives hold a current PASMA photo ID card.

The stamp will initially be available for use on helmets and safety jackets, together with a larger version for use on vehicles.



Working at Height Seminar Theatre

Mark your diary and cancel your appointments and make your way to the NEC, Birmingham, for the 2009 Safety & Health Expo, 12-14 May.

In addition to contributing to Access Live and having an information booth in the Access Village, PASMA speakers will be out in force in the Working at Height Seminar Theatre:

Tuesday, 12 May

1400: Who's afraid of falling? The development of fall prevention in access towers. Dougie McCombie, Turner Access

Wednesday, 13 May

1200: Are you really managing the basics of access towers? Stuart Hopkins, PASMA Training Scheme Manager

Thursday, 14 May

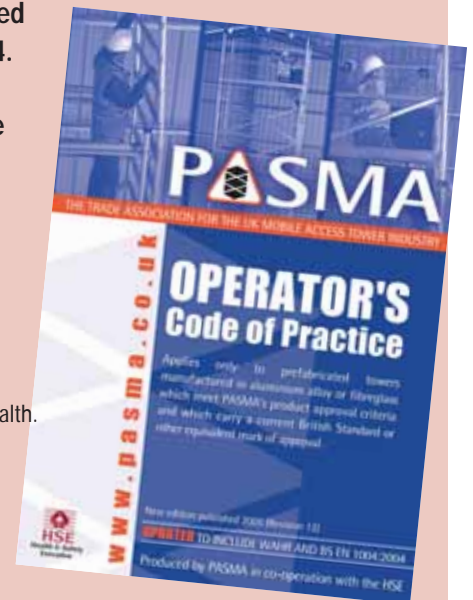
1030: The rise and fall, and rise again, of hire erect services in access towers. Chris Blantern, Hi-Point (PASMA)

Code of Practice

Regularly reviewed and updated in close co-operation with the HSE, the Operator's Code of Practice is the definitive source of best practice for users of prefabricated towers manufactured in aluminium alloy or fibreglass approved to BS EN 1004: 2004. Written for use in conjunction with the appropriate manufacturers' instructions, contents cover:

- Safety requirements.
- Training, competence and responsibilities.
- Literacy, fitness and health.
- Types of mobiles access towers.
- Tower components.
- Assembly; Moving a tower.

More information at www.pasma.co.uk



Hire Erect sub committee chairman)

1500: Preaching from the pulpit. Should the use of low level access units really be on a wing and a prayer? Chris Smith, PASMA Lead Instructor and Regional Auditor.

More information at www.accessindustryforum.org.uk

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