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IPAF **PASMA**

All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

Mandatory training in Ontario

On 1st April, the Ministry of Labour for Ontario issued a new standard for work at height and made it mandatory for those working at height in the province's construction sector to take a training course from a certified provider.

The ministry says that the Working at Heights Training Programme Standard has been designed to ensure that construction employees are sufficiently familiar with hazard identification, ladder safety, the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and the rights and responsibilities regarding working at height. Any construction workers who have not already been trained under the Regulations for

Construction Projects are required to carry out this new training before working at height, while those who have already undertaken the Regulations for Construction Projects training have until April 1st 2017 to qualify for the new requirements. The training course comprises a three hour theory and 3.5 hour practical modules.

Labour minister Kevin Flynn, said: "Falls are the number one cause of critical injuries and fatalities of workers at construction projects in Ontario. We need to fix that, and the new mandatory working-at-heights standards are one step we're taking to ensure workers are safe on the job."

Ministry spokesperson William



Ontario has announced a new mandatory training standard aimed at the construction sector

Lin, added: "The Training Programme Standard sets up the minimum criteria that must be achieved by working-at-heights training programmes. The goal in standardising and approving training is to achieve a common baseline of basic knowledge and skills for working safely at heights."

The Ministry of Labour has also announced that it is considering expanding the requirement into other sectors. Surprisingly, the requirement only applies to those actually working at height, while site managers and supervisors are not required to take the course.



OSHA's National Safety Stand-Down took place on the 4th-15th May throughout the US

OSHA stand-down

The US' Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has held its annual National Safety Stand-Down event in order to raise awareness of preventing fall hazards in the construction sector.

During the two-week stand-down, employers and employees from all 50 states voluntarily stopped work to focus on the importance of fall prevention, holding toolbox talks or other safety activities such as safety equipment inspections, developing rescue plans, or discussing job specific hazards.

David Michaels, OSHA assistant secretary of labour, said: "The people that fall are not just numbers. They are mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. The cost of building our nation and economy cannot be the lives of its workforce, and that's what this Stand-Down is all about. These deaths are preventable if we plan ahead, provide workers the right equipment and train each and every one of them how to use it."

In 2013 falls from height accounted for 291 fatalities throughout the US, 35 percent of all recorded fatalities. Fall prevention safety standards were also among the top 10 most frequently cited OSHA standards.

Contractor fined for telehandler incident

Construction contractor Richard Lynch, 41, has been fined £2,000 with costs of £1,002 following an incident involving a telehandler at Manor House Wildlife Park in Tenby, Wales.



Lynch was working from a work platform fitted to a telehandler (Archive photo)

Lynch and another worker were erecting a geodesic dome from a work platform fitted to a telehandler when the platform fell off the forks as it was being lowered to the ground. Lynch was knocked unconscious while the other man sustained serious injuries to his foot and ankle.

An HSE investigation found that Lynch, who was responsible for the work, had no training in the management of health and safety on construction sites, and that he had not used a telehandler fitted with a work platform before. The driver of the telehandler was also not trained to operate the machine.

Lynch said: "This was a freak accident. I have been driving a telehandler for years and have a totally clean record, but had just never used one before with a man basket. In total this prosecution has cost me around £9,500, as I also had to pay the HSE £6,500 for their investigation."

Who trained them then?

Spotted in France, three men being lifted to a height of approximately seven metres in the bucket attachment of a Merlo telehandler.

