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- Jacks/boom and PTO/handbrake interlocks



# "Great job, keep it going"

Giles Councill explains the PAL Card to Judith Hackitt of the HSE



The chair of the Health & Safety Executive, Judith Hackitt CBE, visited the IPAF stand during the Safety & Health Expo in May at the NEC Birmingham, UK. Giles Councill, IPAF audit programme manager, explained the PAL Card (Powered Access Licence) programme and the importance of operators being trained.

IPAF, as part of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), was also at the Access Live feature. Professional actors performed a range of scenarios, using MEWPs, scaffolding, mobile access towers and ladders, to reinforce the theme "Act now before it's too late".

## Top speakers announced for Europlatform

Several top speakers have been confirmed for the Europlatform access rental conference on 15th September 2009 in Milan. The conference will take the theme of "Access Rentals: Ready for the Rebound?" The keynote speaker is Tim Ford, president of Terex Aerial Work Platforms.

Cees van der Kooij, chief operating officer of Loxam, will speak on "Ten Things not to do in a Recession". Antonio Gómez de la Vega, director, JLG Financial Solutions, will look at how the financial crisis has affected access to capital for rental companies.

Europlatform is being held at the Atahotel Expo Fiera in Milan.

A reception will take place on the evening of 14 September, as well as several IPAF meetings. Details on registration and getting to the venue are at [www.europlatform.info](http://www.europlatform.info)



## Last chance to get IPAF Rental Reports

IPAF members have the unique opportunity to obtain reports that contain groundbreaking research on the rental sector to help them plan business strategies. All three reports -- the IPAF European Powered Access

Rental Report 2008, the IPAF US Powered Access Rental Report 2008, and the ERA European Equipment Rental Industry 2008 Report -- can be purchased at a special price of £395. Details at [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org)

## Aerial Platforms get IPAF Rental+

Aerial Platforms of Leigh has 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.



Jason Seddon, managing director of Aerial Platforms, (left) receives the IPAF Rental+ plaque from Giles Councill, IPAF audit programme manager.

# Challenge to harness manufacturers

IPAF has called for a radical re-examination of harnesses used by female operators of boom-type mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) and announced a competition to find the best new design.

"Research suggests that 15 to 20 percent of operators are females, particularly in the non-construction sector, which now accounts for more than 40 percent of European MEWP rental activity," said IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman. "However, women operators regularly complain that the design of traditional harnesses make them uncomfortable and could cause serious pain and damage to breast tissue in the event of a catapulting incident."

Despite the discomfort, female operators should never operate boom-type platforms without a full-body harness. IPAF believes that operators of

boom-type platforms should wear a full-body harness with an adjustable, short lanyard to prevent possible ejection from the basket in the case of an accident. Full details of industry recommendations are set out in IPAF technical guidance note H1, available at the Publications section of [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org)

IPAF invites harness manufacturers to work with the Federation to address the discomfort issues and to find a way to minimise the potential dangers of damage to female breast tissue caused by the placing of load-bearing straps vertically across the front of the chest area.

Contact IPAF for further information. IPAF will award an IPAF Design Prize to the best solution which will be featured at its bauma press conference in 2010. All entries must be received by 15 March 2010.

## prEN280 out for public comment

The proposed revisions to EN280, the European standard governing the design and manufacture of MEWPs, have been put out for public comment. IPAF technical officer Gil Male summarised the current position and explained the implications of the proposed revisions during the Open Hirers' Meeting at Vertikal Days. IPAF members can give feedback and comments on the standard to Gil Male.

## First regional meeting takes off

The first IPAF regional meeting, held in the North West of England in May, attracted more than 30 attendees.

"I was really pleased to see such a good turnout at this first meeting, both in number and in the broad spectrum of powered access professionals attending," said Peter Jones, chairman of the IPAF/CPA Powered Access Interest Group (PAIG). "Judging by the lively Q&A session, the evening's socialising and the positive feedback on the meeting as a whole, this is a very welcome addition to IPAF's existing events calendar."

Watch out for the date of the next regional meeting at [www.ipaf.org/events](http://www.ipaf.org/events)

## Don't miss the PDS

The Professional Development Seminar (PDS) for UK instructors will be held on 9th September 2009 at the Best Western Moat House, Stoke on Trent ST1 5BQ. Details at [www.ipaf.org/events](http://www.ipaf.org/events)



Peter Jones hosted IPAF's first UK regional meeting



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