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"Spot the Mistake"

video challenges operators to do it right

Operators can now benefit from a new IPAF safety video called "Spot the Mistake", which focuses on the wrong and right procedures for using mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs).

The 20-minute video features six separate scenarios, which are extracted from the IPAF operator training course. Each scene contains one deliberate mistake which the audience has the chance to identify. The correct procedure is then shown.

"The video encapsulates the most common operator errors and what the right procedures should be," said

Rupert Douglas-Jones, IPAF international training manager. "It's a great educational tool and we thank all the producers and actors for their enthusiasm in making the scenes realistic."

The UK version was launched recently at the IPAF Professional Development Seminar (PDS) in Stoke-on-Trent. The Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish and American versions will be launched at subsequent PDS events in other countries.

All versions will be available at the Publications/Film section of www.ipaf.org



ISO 18878 is the training standard

The relevant standard for operator training is ISO 18878:2004 Mobile elevating work platforms - Operator (driver) training. The IPAF operator training programme conforms to ISO 18878. IPAF is the only organisation that has independently audited its training programme against ISO 18878.

ISO 9001 and ISO 18878: What's the difference?

Several IPAF training centres have raised queries as to whether the PAL Card training programme conforms to ISO 9001.

ISO 9001 relates to good quality management practices for companies/organisations. It "provides a tried and tested framework for taking a systematic approach to managing the organisation's processes so that they consistently turn out products that satisfy customers' expectations" (to quote from the ISO website). As such, this standard cannot be used to audit the PAL Card on its own.

IPAF has however been audited against ISO 9001 for a long time and passed the most recent audit in August 2009. The audit focused on IPAF's services, specifically, the provision of support, assistance and general guidance to IPAF members and the powered access industry as a whole. It also focused on the control and administration of the IPAF MEWP and MCWP training programmes. The audit covered such areas as documentation requirements, customer focus, quality policy, product and service provision, and control of non-conformities.

Industry grapples with noise limits

IPAF has presented a position paper to Bern Mertz, the European Commission representative responsible for the revision of Directive 2000/14/EC relating to noise emission in the environment by equipment for use outdoors.

The position paper asks for achievable limits for MEWPs if they are moved from Article 13 to Article 12. Article 13 applies to equipment that must have a noise level marking while Article 12 applies to equipment with a noise limit. The paper aims to specify limits that bring about a reduction in environmental noise from MEWPs while, at the same time, reducing the impact to a limited range of models/engine power ratings. "This shows the MEWP industry's desire to work with the EC but also to keep developments within practical and economical limits," said IPAF technical officer Gil Male.

IPAF had previously lobbied to keep MEWPs in Article 13 and not 12 of the Directive, following industry concerns that Article 12 would place

inappropriate constraints on MEWPs. There were also concerns about the lack of a test code, which implied developing a methodology for defining noise levels on MEWPs.

IPAF had also presented a position paper to the FEM Noise Task Force some time ago. This position paper was circulated before and discussed at the IPAF Manufacturers' Technical Committee Meeting in Atlanta, USA in March 2009. This paper asked for a specific test code and limits for MEWPs.

It is now clear that proposals to keep MEWPs in Article 13 are unlikely to be accepted and that test codes for individual machine types will not be accepted, i.e. manufacturers will have to use the methods of test and analysis given in the Directive.

IPAF has therefore drafted the new position paper in response to these developments. Proposals for revision of the Directive are to be presented to the European Commission this September.

IPAF staff do their bit for training

Two new IPAF staff members got their PAL Card (Powered Access Licence) this July. Karina Lehmann, secretary to the managing director and Gemma Rea, purchase ledger clerk, were successfully trained in the categories 3a and 3b at JLG in Manchester. Stephen McGill was the instructor on that day. Also on the course was IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman, who successfully renewed his licence.

"We were honoured and pleased that IPAF chose JLG to complete its staff operator training," said Edward Price, customer support manager. "We take pride in the quality of training we deliver, so we were more than glad to assist Tim and his team. Our belief is that training should go beyond simply issuing certificates as the quality, content, standard and delivery of the training has an impact on the knowledge that each candidate leaves the course with."



Stephen McGill, IPAF-certified instructor, explains the correct operating procedures to Gemma Rea and Karina Lehmann.



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