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All training centres above offer IPAF approved and audited courses for Operators of Mobile aerial work platforms, European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

See www.ipaf.org for full listing

Training failure costs £100,000

Select Plant Hire has been fined £100,000 for the Croydon tower crane accident in June 2007. The cranes superstructure flipped over backwards and landed on the roof of the Croydon Park Hotel. The operator, John Young, 39, miraculously survived, but suffered multiple fractures and was in a body brace for 10 weeks.



Select admitted breaching health and safety laws while the crane was being climbed, the erectors had failed to secure the superstructure to the tower before trolleying in a new section. The prosecution claimed that they had not been properly

trained to climb the specific crane and were not sufficiently supervised. Andrew Kinnier, speaking for Select, said the company had an "impeccable" safety record, while new measures, including improved training, have been put in place.

Scaffold fall costs £16,750

John Doyle Construction Ltd of Little Burrow, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, has been fined £3,500 plus costs of £13,244 after pleading guilty to breaching the Work at Height Regulations 2005, following an accident at the Hilton Hotel site in Liverpool in July 2007.

John Doyle employees were moving scaffolding tower on the site when it overturned and fell down an embankment. Gerard Baccino, 49, was removing lifting chains from the top of the scaffold and fell around six metres to the ground when it toppled over. Baccino, a father of three, suffered back injuries in the fall, fractured his pelvis and chest, and has been unable to return to work. Mark Cuff, HSE's investigating inspector, said: "This incident was entirely avoidable and was caused by John Doyle Construction asking Mr Baccino to work at the top of a

structure that was inherently unstable. The scaffold tower was being used during the construction of concrete columns. It was specifically designed to be lifted as a single unit, but the company decided to partially dismantle it and move it in two parts. It should have considered the implications of not following the procedures for lifting the scaffolding. Its failure to do so resulted in one of its employees being seriously injured, and it was only by chance that there wasn't a fatality." Baccino joined Doyle's just four days prior to the accident.

Fall costs Carillion almost £50,000

Carillion (AMBS) Ltd, of Glasgow, was fined £40,000 and ordered to pay £8,300 after pleading guilty to breaching the Work at Height Regulations 2005, for failing to ensure cleaning work was properly planned and supervised and for failing to take measures to prevent a fall at the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station in Nottinghamshire.

On 7th October 2007, a temporary industrial cleaner working for Carillion at the E.ON power station was asked to clean ducting that supplied air to the boilers. Two ducts were separated by a gap, with no edge protection and there was a drop of six-and-a-half metres to the grating below.

The cleaner was provided with a harness and given instructions, but was not provided with any training on how to use it. The harness is designed to halt someone mid-fall, so it only reduces the potential for injury rather than preventing the fall altogether.

The cleaner unclipped himself from the girder the harness was secured to, but then fell between the gap. He suffered a broken femur, 11 broken ribs, a bruised lung and two cuts to his head which required stitches. He has been unable to return to work.

HSE inspector Sian Tiernan said: "Every month 1,000 people suffer serious injuries as a result of slips, trips or falls in the workplace. These life shattering injuries can be avoided by sensible, proportionate management of the risks, but sadly that was not done in this case."

Who trained him then?

Spotted by a reader in Germany, this man and the operator believe that the clamshell of an excavator is a suitable work platform.

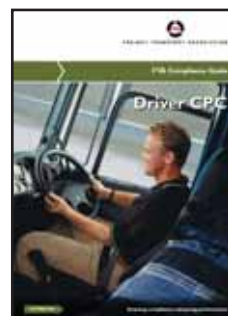


Guide to driver CPC training compliance

European Directive 2003/59/EC, came into effect in September, requiring all drivers of delivery trucks above 3,500 kgs - C1, C1+E, C or C+E - to gain a Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) by 2014.

New drivers will simply need to pass a test at the start of their career, while drivers who already hold a relevant licence, will need to attend an approved course for a minimum of seven hours and complete a total of at least 35 hours of training every five years.

Some drivers are exempt, including those who drive a vehicle which is a work tool, rather than a delivery vehicle. So truck/van mounted lifts are exempt, while rental delivery drivers are not. The UK's Freight Transport Association (FTA) has published a guide to the subject, including what is required to carry out the training in-house. The FTA can be contacted on +44 (0)870 60 50 000. www.fta.co.uk



New Liebherr training facility

Crane manufacturer Liebherr has extended its range of services by offering fully certified and accredited training courses in plant lifting operations from its UK headquarters in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.

The new, purpose-built training centre is on the same site as the impressive Liebherr UK operations and has its own specific training area and dedicated mobile crane. Headed up by training manager Andy Claypole, the set up reflects Liebherr's typical 'no shortcuts' standards.

Liebherr training is fully accredited by the CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) and City and Guilds Institute and uses its expertise and knowledge to deliver approved qualifications and assessment in plant lifting operations in three categories - Intermediate

Construction Training (ICT), National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) and Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS).

The training courses also cover a wide range of statutory courses ensuring compliance with lifting operations and lifting equipment regulations (LOLER) and British Standards for the safe use of cranes (BS 7121 range).

"Our programme covers the full range of courses from the basic operations course - a 10 day foundation course for potential mobile crane operators with no



Training manager Andy Claypole (centre) with Operator Trainers Craig Scammell (left) and Gordon Barber.

formal instruction all the way through to experienced operators requiring one day refresher training - through to the four day slinger and signaller foundation, the two day lifting tackle inspector course, right up to the four day planning and managing of complex lifting operations for the CPCS Appointed Person," said Claypole. "The training school provides both classroom and real-life, hands-on experience and assessment in our specially constructed proving ground using our own dedicated 30 tonne mobile All Terrain crane for the practical aspects of the training courses. All courses are available in CPCS or non CPCS format and can be tailored for individual clients if required."

During the C&A visit to the training centre, a full familiarisation instruction course was being given to Ainscough employees prior to the company taking delivery of a new 250 tonne, six axle Liebherr LTM 1250-6.1 which included all the set-up and operational procedures including jib set up. These in depth 'familiarisation' courses are additional to the standard accreditation instruction and testing. (See CPA page)



Ainscough operatives on a familiarisation course on a Liebherr LTM1250-6.1 all terrain mobile crane

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