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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](http://www.ipaf.org) for full listing

# Fork lift operator fined £2,500

A forklift truck operator whose actions contributed to the death of a colleague was fined £1,500 plus costs of £1,000. The prosecution follows an accident at Crosshills, West Yorkshire-based transport company Joda Freight, on 14th March 2006.

The operator, Andrew Mason, had lifted colleague Francis Roberts, 48, on the forks of the truck to scan pallets prior to unloading them. He slipped and fell three metres onto the concrete yard, sustaining serious injuries that required prolonged treatment in hospital. He died two months later from complications. Roberts had volunteered to go up on the forks after the employees who had been scanning the pallets refused. Ironically the pallets were due to be unloaded and could have been scanned at ground level. The court was told that there are clear fork-truck guidelines stating that people should not be lifted on the forks without a purpose-built cage.

Mason pleaded guilty to breaching Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Act, in that he failed to take reasonable care and allowed Roberts to fall from the vehicle.

HSE inspector Paul Yeadon said: "Mason will forever live with the guilt of his momentary disregard for safety. Forklifts are extremely common and invaluable pieces of machinery. However, they also pose a serious risk if they are used for anything other than their intended purpose. We hope that this tragic incident will serve as a lesson to all employers and employees who work with or near forklifts."

# £126,000 in MK scaffold collapse

McAleer & Rushe, of County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, and Lee Smith Carpentry, of Romsey, Hampshire, have received fines and costs totally £126,000 following the 2006 collapse of façade scaffold at the Jurys Hotel in Milton Keynes which resulted in the death of John Robinson, 49.

Principal contractor McAleer & Rushe was fined £90,000 plus £42,000 costs, while Lee Smith Carpentry was fined £36,000 with £28,000 of costs after pleading guilty to breaching Health & Safety regulations. Robinson had been working with his son Mark on the 15th of 19 levels of scaffolding during the lunch break when the scaffold collapsed dropping him 30 metres to the ground. Mark Robinson and electrician Ivan Penkov suffered serious injuries.

Judge Nicholas Coleman said: "This was a disaster waiting to happen," adding "there had been previous concerns about scaffolding management issues. It may be that

commercial considerations cut across proper safety arrangements."

Both companies have apologised for the incident. McAleer & Rushe said it had improved health and safety procedures and improved its management of scaffolding construction. The court was told that the firm which erected the scaffolding, NNM Scaffolding of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, had also been accused of breaching health and safety law but that the firm had gone into liquidation and its managing director John King was 'hiding in Spain'. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

HSE principal inspector Stephen Hartley said: "It is a wonder that more people weren't hurt. It is totally unacceptable for companies to disregard the safety of their workers. If the scaffolding had been designed, erected and managed properly, this incident would never have happened."



C&a

training

# A-Plant adds accreditation

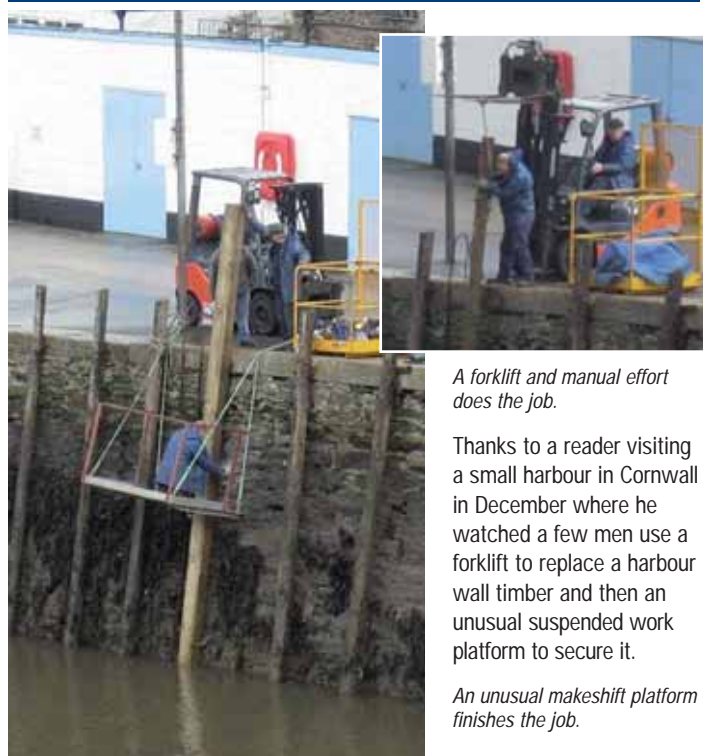
UK-based rental company A-Plant, has achieved the Achilles Building Confidence accreditation following an audit of the company's health, safety and environmental practices across its 115 locations.

The Building Confidence audit is conducted by Achilles in partnership with Bovis Lend Lease. As a supplier pre-qualification service for the UK construction industry it is already used by a number of major contractors to evaluate supply chains.

Douglas McLuckie, A-Plant's director of EHS and performance standards said: "Our accreditation on this programme re-affirms our dedication to providing a quality service to our customers, in conjunction with our ongoing commitment to being a safe, socially and environmentally responsible service provider."

A-Plant claims to be the first national rental company in Europe to achieve dual certification to both the ISO 14001:2004 Standard and OHSAS 18001:2007 specification covering health and safety and environmental procedures.

# Who trained him then?



A forklift and manual effort does the job.

Thanks to a reader visiting a small harbour in Cornwall in December where he watched a few men use a forklift to replace a harbour wall timber and then an unusual suspended work platform to secure it.

An unusual makeshift platform finishes the job.