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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

The show must go on

C&a

training

The Alo Group, of Santiago de Chile, delivered an IPAF training course as planned on March first, in spite of the devastating earthquake that had hit the country that weekend.

"We were amazed when people who had arranged the training with us the week before arrived that morning," said Sandra Franco of the Alo Group. "We really had not expected them to come due to the chaotic situation in the city, but they braved the mess of the earthquake and crossed the city to receive IPAF training."

The classrooms and offices of Alo Training were less damaged than most and IPAF-certified instructor

Claudio Figueroa managed to perform the training. The Alo Group runs a fleet of 400 aerial lifts with a staff of 70. Its Santiago and Antofagasta branches escaped serious problems, however the Concepción branch - at the epicentre of the earthquake in the South - suffered a communications blackout. The company sent an emergency group with four wheel drive vehicles to help in the reconstruction of the branch.



Claudio Figueroa of Alo Training carries on training

Improper work at height costs client £15,000

Cobham Advanced Composites of Gelders Hall Road, Shepshed, has been prosecuted for allowing three contractors to work on a roof without adequate safety measures to prevent them falling. The firm pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £10,000 plus costs of £4,778.

Cobham employed Streamline Guttering and Cladding of Kirkby Muxloe, to install new guttering on its seven metre high building in December 2008/January 2009. The workers accessed the roof via a mobile tower at the front of the building, but there was no equipment to stop the men falling at the back

of the building where work was underway.

Streamline was fined at an earlier hearing after pleading guilty to breaching the Work At Height Regulations 2005. HSE Inspector Mhairi Lockwood said: "Working on roofs is a high risk activity. There was a foreseeable risk of a fall through either fragile roof lights or from the unprotected edge of the building. Any of the three roofing contractors could have suffered serious injuries or worse if they had fallen. This case shows that it is not only the responsibility of the contracting company to ensure the safety of its workforce, but also that of its client."

Telehandler safety bulletin

The UK's Health & Safety Executive has issued a Safety Notice following a recent fatal accident in Scotland where the operator of a telehandler was leaning through the broken right side window, when he was crushed and fatally injured by the descending boom.

The Safety Notice requires the following actions:

- If the side window glass is broken or missing the telehandler should be removed from use until the screen has been replaced.
- Telehandler owners, users and operators should be warned of the dangers of operating their machines with the side screen broken or

missing, and the importance of reporting such damage as soon as it occurs.

- Users are also reminded of the importance of carrying out daily checks of the condition of their machines and that the condition of the cab windows is part of these inspections.



The right hand side window

£100,000 fine for untrained crane operator

Corus steel has been fined £100,000 plus almost £10,000 in costs following a crane tipping over at a Rotherham stockyard. Operator Michael Spiewak managed to escape through a window as the reinforced cab landed on a skip and crushed in around him.

Sheffield Crown Court heard the crane had been fitted with a tipping alarm two months earlier, but no-one on the site at Aldwarke Steel Works had been trained to use it. The 10 tonne capacity crane was used to lift two large columns of steel weighing well more than 10 tonnes with a magnet. The overload alarm was in working order but employees were only able to switch it on to

make the crane work, but had no idea of how to set it.

The prosecutor said: "The cab was entirely crushed but luckily Mr Spiewak escaped through a window. Corus failed to provide adequate information, instruction and training."

Corus pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act. The court heard the firm had eight previous convictions since 2004. Judge Roger Keen QC said Corus was guilty of a "gross dereliction" of its duty of care to employees and added: "an employee was extremely fortunate not to have been killed. All workers had to do was press the 'mode' button, that's the culpability."

Who trained him then?

These two were spotted with their truck mounted alloy tower, almost breaking every rule of safe working in the book.

