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PASMA undertakes fundamental review of fall prevention methods

PASMA is undertaking a major review of the two methods currently approved by the association and the UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE) for assembling and dismantling towers – notably 3T (Through the Trap) and AGR (Advanced Guardrail).

As a responsible trade association representing all sectors of the mobile access tower industry and as part of its on going remit to regularly review and refine its guidance, it is examining and evaluating all aspects of the two methods in an exhaustive process which is underway now. As part of this process the association has already sponsored a series of public debates in the Access Industry Forum's (AIF) Knowledge Base at this year's Safety & Health Expo and produced a wide-ranging interim technical report as a platform for further discussion and consultation.

with the association to further minimise the risk of falls in the coming years."

PASMA managing director, Peter Bennett added: "Against the background of the recent House of Lords Merits Committee Enquiry which looked into the downstream effects of the Work at Height Regulations, any recommendations regarding AGR and 3T will, of necessity, take into account the benefits and burdens – including the financial and technical implications – placed on manufacturers, hirers, purchasers and, of course, end users."

"In coming to any conclusion we

Peter Bennett and the PASMA team discuss the 3T and AGR methods at the assessment days



Two days of practical assessments took place in June when both methods were assessed and appraised against a common set of criteria. Throughout the process PASMA is consulting widely with all the relevant stakeholders, including the HSE. Its findings are expected to be published later this year.

HSE Inspector, Justine Lee, who has special responsibility in the areas of working at height and fall prevention, said: "We are very encouraged at PASMA's responsible and measured approach to reviewing progress in fall prevention in the mobile access tower industry. We look forward to positively contributing once again to the review process and in working

need to be sure we have addressed all the issues, as far as it is possible to identify and understand them, so that we safeguard against any displaced risks further down the line."

Significantly, the association has not had a single report of any incident, accident or death resulting from the use of either method and they remain the only two methods currently approved by PASMA and HSE for assembling and dismantling towers. Both are fully supported by PASMA's industry standard training scheme.

Anyone wanting to view the 3T/AGR debates in the AIF Knowledge Base at this year's Safety & Health Expo can do so by visiting www.accessindustryforum.org.uk/knowledge.html



The discussions get underway at the practical assessment days

First Annual Review

The Association's first Annual Review will be launched at the Annual Members' Meeting on 13th July at Moxhull Hall Hotel in the West Midlands.

Intended to record and celebrate the association's recent achievements, it contains reports from the chairman, Roger Verallo, managing director, Peter Bennett, and the chairmen of the training, technical and hire/assembly committees. In the report, Verallo says: "Since the early days of its formation more than 35 years ago, the Association has been at the forefront of championing the mobile access tower industry and ensuring that mobile access towers lead the way in providing safe, efficient

and economic work at height."

Endorsing the review, Brian Nimick, chief executive of the International Institute of Risk and Safety Management (IIRSM) adds: "I would like to congratulate PASMA on producing their first Annual Review. As a body, you have much to celebrate; from your Code of Practice to your comprehensive training programme. You have made and continue to make an outstanding contribution to health and safety in the UK."

A copy of the Annual Review can be obtained via the PASMA website or by contacting jill.couttie@pasma.co.uk



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