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Mutual status and new office for IPAF

IPAF is now an industrial and provident society registered with the Financial Services Authority (FSA). In practice, the conversion does not change the way IPAF deals with members and suppliers.

Having limited liability for corporation tax and being subject to FSA rules will provide better protection of any financial reserves that IPAF builds up and enable it to use these funds purely for the purposes directed by members.

This change in legal status was announced by IPAF president Steve Shaughnessy at the recent official opening of the new IPAF head office



IPAF president Steve Shaughnessy (R) officially opens the new IPAF head office at Moss End in Cumbria, with IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman.

at Moss End in Cumbria. The opening was attended by several past presidents of IPAF (Frank Huish, Leigh Sparrow and John Ball) and previous managing director Paul Adorian.

IPAF's new head office is more spacious and has more room for expansion than its former premises at Milnthorpe. High-speed broadband and video conferencing are among the facilities that will help support IPAF's growing international membership. IPAF members are welcome to use the meeting room by appointment.

Status of Beide as Notified Body

IPAF has informed its members that UK-based Beide Product Service Limited is not listed as a Notified Body appointed by the government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The full listing of organisations designated to carry out conformity assessment according to the Machinery Directive, is published by the European Commission. An explanation of Notified Bodies and their function under the Directive can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/nando/> Companies holding certificates of conformity issued by Beide are advised to contact the company to review their validity. Further information is available from IPAF's technical officer.

Highway Plant is first CAP centre in Ireland

Belfast-based Highway Plant has become the first IPAF-approved centre in Ireland to offer the CAP (Competent Assessed Person) programme.



Equipment used to lift people in the UK must be thoroughly examined by a competent person every six months. IPAF's CAP Card certifies that the holder has been independently assessed as being knowledgeable and able to carry out thorough examinations of platforms in the context of current legislation. The assessments focus on machine safety and are for experienced engineers. More information on the CAP programme is at www.ipaf.org/cap

IPAF complies with ISO 18878 and 9001

IPAF's operator training programme has again been certified by TÜV as complying with ISO 18878:2004 Mobile elevating work platforms - Operator (driver) training.

IPAF fulfilled all requirements of the standard and no non-conformities were found. The audit was performed by TÜV Rheinland. The audit report highlighted positive aspects such as IPAF's continued development of the training programme, Operations Manual and instructors through involvement and feedback; strong surveillance system (audits) and results analysis with escalation processes; clear customer focus; and team approach.

IPAF also meets the 2008 version of ISO 9001, having passed the surveillance audit. No non-conformities were found. "IPAF is an extremely well organised outfit and a large part of its business involves auditing of member training centres and organisations, thus they are on top of auditing principles and methods," noted auditor David Willcocks from ISOQAR in his report. "It has an excellent QMS and it is thoroughly appraised via internal audits by its own staff."

Guidance on the use of MEWPs in confined overhead spaces

Straightforward guidance on how to prevent rare but dangerous accidents that could happen when mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) are used in confined spaces is now available.



Work in confined overhead areas requires proper planning and supervision.

The Strategic Forum for Construction Plant Safety Group, of which IPAF is one of the lead organisations, has released a Best Practice Guidance for MEWPs on this subject.

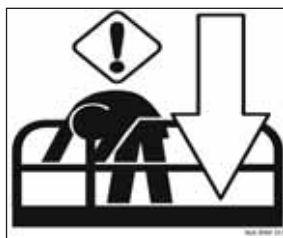
There have been a number of such accidents over the last few years, including fatal ones. Some of these incidents have involved the operator or other person being crushed against fixtures or other obstacles while working at height. These incidents could have been prevented by proper planning and preparation, selection of appropriate equipment and correct use.

The guidance provides clarity about the safe use of MEWPs including planning, equipment selection, training, provision of information, familiarisation, safe use, supervision and rescue procedures, together with monitoring and management of the work. The document is available free at the Publications section of www.ipaf.org

Standardisation of controls

The IPAF MEWP Safety Forum is collecting data on platform and ground controls with the aim of reviewing whether some MEWP controls could be standardised in the interest of safety. The Forum also discussed the desirability

and feasibility of bringing about greater standardisation of emergency descent controls. The group agreed to focus on ways of standardising the signposting of emergency descent controls.



This safety decal can be used to signpost the location of emergency descent controls. Artwork is available from the Resources section of www.ipaf.org



IPAF Ltd, Moss End Business Village
Crooklands Cumbria LA7 7NU

Tel: 015395 66700

Fax: 015395 66084

www.ipaf.org info@ipaf.org

Offices in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the USA.