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The 3T/AGR Review: A Progress Report

c&a

PASMA

It was appropriate and in line with PASMA's role in the industry that, as the fifth anniversary of the implementation of the Work at Height Regulations (WAHR) approached in 2010, the association should undertake a fundamental review of the guidance and best practice it has promulgated and implemented since 2005 regarding the 3T (Through the Trap) and AGR (Advance Guardrail) methods of providing fall protection while assembling a tower.

The review process began in the latter part of 2009 when PASMA invited submissions from its members - based on their own knowledge and experience - to provide input to the review process. As a result of these submissions an interim report outlining the main issues and concerns

was produced for internal consideration by technical representatives of the association's manufacturing members. This was then used as the basis for conducting a series of technical workshops which attempted to systematically examine and evaluate the concerns, the claims, the counter claims and the myths and distil these down to what are the real issues.

That process is now complete and the review has moved into its consultation phase. As detailed in the review programme, and mirroring the original collaboration which produced the currently approved 3T and AGR methods, the HSE (Health & Safety Executive) has once again been invited to participate in the evaluation along with other interested and involved sectors such as the construction industry through the UK Contractors Group (UKCG) and the rental industry through Hire



3T (Through the Trap) method



AGR (Advanced Guardrail) method



Association Europe (HAE).

It is anticipated that some further academic research will be commissioned in respect of a small number of technical questions to provide knowledgeable, impartial and expert advice upon which opinions can be formed. This will be considered during the final stages of the review and evaluation period, at the conclusion of which PASMA will produce a final report and make recommendations as to whether - and if - the association's

current guidance and best practice should be amended, and whether any minor adjustments are necessary to the current PASMA training scheme as a result.

As the industry's trade body, PASMA has a duty to ensure that the review process is dispassionate, measured, objective, consultative and thorough. This cannot be done quickly, with the result that the final report is unlikely to be published much before the end of the year.

News in Brief

Vertikal Days:

As reported in the last issue of *Cranes & Access*, PASMA is exploring with the Vertikal Press the possibility of creating a dedicated showcase - a 'PASMA Village' - for mobile access towers at next year's Vertikal Days. Ideally this will cater for both manufacturers and PASMA approved training centres. More information in the next issue.



2010 Ladder Exchange:

The association is actively supporting the HSE's 2010 Ladder Exchange which runs until 30th November 2010. During this period users can exchange bent and broken ladders for new ones, at a discount, at participating partners. Visit www.hse.gov.uk/falls/ladderexchange.htm for more information. Over 7,000 ladders have been exchanged since the scheme first began.

Toolbox Talk:

Alongside other members of the Access Industry Forum (AIF) - which recently welcomed new member EPF, the Edge Protection Federation - PASMA has produced a toolbox talk for towers. Currently in the final stages of editing, it will be posted at www.pasma.co.uk soon.

On Show:

With a view to promoting towers, tower training and the industry a large, PASMA has signed up to a number of high profile events next year. These include the Executive Hire Show at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry (9/10 February); the IOSH Conference and Exhibition at ExCel, London (15/16 March); and the Safety & Health Expo at the NEC, Birmingham (17-19 May) 2010.

New Website:

Work on the new website is progressing under the watchful eye of communications officer, Jill Couttie.

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