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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

# Hook on to training

With more and more emphasis on safety in the construction industry and a direct link between safety and training, it is perhaps surprising that there is not an industry/government recognised training programme for system/modular scaffold. Scaffold company Haki has just doubled the capacity at its dedicated training centre in Tamworth. Mark Darwin investigates.

The scaffolding industry is suffering like many others, unable to recruit enough youngsters into the physically demanding industry. The result is the average age of a scaffolder is now 42 - it used to be 19. Modular scaffold has benefited from this labour shortage as well as from increased pressure to compete contracts ever more quickly and the tightening Working at Height legislation forcing companies to find the safest solution.

With this in mind, the UK division of Swedish scaffold company Haki (which means 'hook on' in Swedish) has increased the training aspect of its product support both for its modular scaffold and its range of Geda hoists and lifts.

From its impressive new training facilities near its head office in Tamworth, Staffordshire, Haki offers

training for scaffolders, managers and supervisors on all of its scaffold related products. The company has also produced user guides for the safe erection of its universal independent scaffold, stair tower and loading tower system. It has offered training on scaffolds and hoists for several years but the investment in this new facility will almost double the total number of scaffolding certificates it issues to 500. In fact, 105 scaffolders have already been trained up to the end of February, so this figure could well be higher. Hoist training should reach 100.

Haki has two full time staff for training and site support, dividing their time between in-house and on-site training. According to managing director Paul Brunt, the objective is to raise the competency levels of all personnel within the



The Haki modular system maintains safety by enabling handrails to be erected at first lift level before the steel boards are in place



The electric winch allows several items to be lifted safely at the same time.

Haki Group. This has started with a recently opened 'centre of excellence' which occupies the site of the original building at Haki headquarters in Sibbult, Sweden.

However, as well as training, the company has focussed on products that reduce the potential for accidents - designs with fewer, lighter components, with erection procedures that eliminate potential safety hazards. Haki's latest introduction is the loading tower system which allows safe loading of materials such as bricks and mortar. The 'automatic locking when closed' design ensures that the gate cannot be opened by a forklift and that the

operator is always behind the closed off platform. The unit has a large five square metre area and can cope with an impact load by a crane or telehandler. The design also prevents overloading.

The problem of accidents resulting from badly loaded materials, particularly scaffolding, in hoists resulted in representatives from the CPA hoist interest group, the National Access and Scaffold Confederation (NASC), the HSE and members of the construction industry working together to create the guidance document 'Transporting Scaffolding in Construction Hoists - Best Practice Guide'.

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