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Lift Safety Zone highlights ground support requirements at Conexpo

"Look down before going up" - this new safety initiative was brought to focus by IPAF and its North American subsidiary AWPT at Conexpo in Las Vegas this March. The initiative aims to make aerial work platform users aware of the potential dangers from an inadequate assessment of ground conditions prior to use and failure to determine if there is sufficient ground support to handle the weight of the equipment when in use.

Dynamic demonstrations were run daily at the Lift Safety Zone, where experts were on hand to give advice on safe operation of lifting equipment.

AWPT's Tony Groat and Gary Riley ran the demonstrations with aplomb, cajoling visitors to guess the weight of a typical 60-foot (18m) boom as it drove onto axle weighing scales. The point to remember: the machine may be much heavier than you imagine and loads may be concentrated on one wheel, so always check ground conditions before starting work.



Major standards review: IPAF consults members

IPAF is conducting a major consultation exercise among its members on three important standards affecting the powered access industry that are up for review.

The three standards are:

BS8460:2005 Safe use of MEWPs: Code of practice

This British standard provides guidance for rental companies and users to assist them in complying with the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) and the Work at Height Regulations 2005. It also provides valuable guidance for training those involved in MEWP operations.

ISO18878:2004 Mobile elevating work platforms - Operator (driver) training

This international standard defines the correct procedures on running a platform operator training programme and is the backbone behind IPAF's activities and services in training. The IPAF PAL Card operator training programme

is certified by TÜV as conforming to this standard.

ISO18893:2004 Mobile elevating work platforms - Safety principles, inspection, maintenance and operation

This international standard for MEWPs is aimed at preventing personal injuries, property damage and accidents and at establishing criteria for inspection, maintenance and operation. The technical safety requirements of this standard apply, everywhere except where national or local regulations are more stringent.

Standards making and interpretation has always been a key part of IPAF's activities and members are encouraged to send any comments to IPAF in writing so that they may be submitted to the relevant working groups for further discussion and implementation. Comments on the above standards under review should be submitted in English to, Rupert Douglas-Jones of IPAF by 29th April 2011.

c&a

IPAF focus

PAL Cards for CEOs of Lavendon and GAM

Kevin Appleton, chief executive of the Lavendon Group, and Carlos Fernández Araoz, chief operating officer of GAM, have become proud holders of the IPAF PAL Card.

Appleton and Araoz were trained at Nationwide Platforms, which is owned by Lavendon, in machine categories 3a (mobile vertical, scissor lift) and 3b (mobile boom, self-propelled boom). The full-day training course includes as standard a theory session followed by a written test to gauge knowledge, and a practical session ending with a practical assessment of operating skill and ability. Both candidates passed with flying colours.

Record number of PAL Cards issued

IPAF issued a record 85,605 PAL Cards (Powered Access Licences) worldwide through its approved training centres in 2010, an increase of around nine percent over the 78,210 PAL Cards issued in 2009. The trend has continued into the new year, with 9,612 PAL cards issued in March, breaking the previous monthly record of 8,570 set in March 2010.

At the end of 2010, IPAF had a total of 777 members from 35 countries. Each of these owns one share in the Federation. More than half the membership is now based outside the UK (IPAF's original market), and membership continues to grow in other parts of the world.

"We had a conservative budget and I am happy to say that we have outperformed this by a small margin," said Tim Whiteman, IPAF CEO. "It is still a tough time for our members and we thank them for their support. We are expecting 2011 to show some improvement and will look to the results of our market research reports to be published in April. IPAF can benefit from growth in new areas such as South East Asia and Latin America, where there is strong interest in world-class operator training."

IPAF Summit and IAPAs

A record turnout was expected at the IPAF Summit and International Awards for Powered Access on 14th April in Amsterdam, just as this magazine was going to print. Read about the Summit and the awards at www.iapa-summit.info and www.ipaf.org

Load sensing systems

The IPAF CAP (Competent Assessed Person) committee is seeking to collate guidance on how to test load sensing and tilt systems. Any information on this subject may be sent to the IPAF UK training administrator, susan.foster@ipaf.org



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