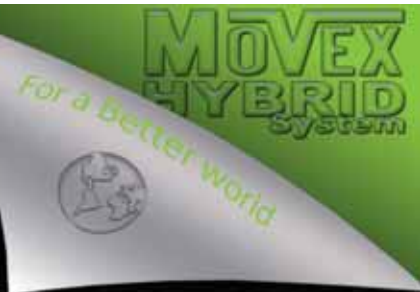


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Don't use cranes to lift people!

The FEM Product Group for Cranes and Lifting Equipment has issued a position paper which states that cranes should not be used for lifting people, except in exceptional circumstances where safety requirements have been fulfilled and undertaken at the specific responsibility of the user.

Don't do this! A crane basket is not a safe way to lift people



FEM (Fédération Européenne de la Manutention) is the European manufacturers' association for material handling equipment. Its position paper dated 16 May 2011 (document FEM CLE MC N 0284) states that: "Mobile cranes shall never be used for entertainment purposes, e.g. lifting of persons for shows, bungee jumping, dinner-in-the-sky or lifting of other structures with people on the structure or underneath (e.g. lifting of tents). Mobile cranes are not intended to lift persons, they may be used to suspend personnel in man baskets only in unique work situations when it is the least hazardous way to do the job."

The position paper comes in response to a potentially dangerous trend where some entrepreneurs have used cranes to lift people to great heights for recreational purposes. Several crane manufacturers clearly prohibit such usage in their crane operator manuals. Welcoming the clarification from FEM, IPAF chief executive Tim Whiteman said: "Purpose-built powered access equipment is an infinitely safer and more precise method of providing access to carry out temporary work at height. Compare this with a basket suspended from a single crane rope which may well blow around in the wind. Cranes should be used for lifting loads, not people."

The IPAF spider tent at Vertikal Days

c&a

IPAF focus



Familiarisation tested at Vertikal Days

IPAF was at Vertikal Days in Haydock, drawing positive reaction with its new spider tent, which offered visitors a welcome shelter when the weather turned a bit wet!

Alongside the tent the IPAF practical test area invited visitors to see if they could locate and operate the emergency lowering controls on different machines. The tests were done under the watchful eye of IPAF auditor Chris Smith. Warren Bradbury, independent instructor and Adrian McDowall of Access Plus won the time trials, aimed at demonstrating the importance of familiarisation before using a machine. Trained operators need to be familiarised with the model-specific features such as control functions and safety devices.

IPAF auditor Chris Smith (left) watches as independent instructor Warren Bradbury operates the emergency lowering controls on a truck-mount.



Scissors vs. booms: Fleet mix in the IPAF rental reports

Booms represent around 46 percent and scissors 49 percent of the powered access fleet in Europe. The picture shifts a bit 'across the pond'. In the US the split is booms 40 percent and scissors around 60 percent. This is just one of many conclusions to emerge from the IPAF European Powered Access Rental Report 2011 and the IPAF US Powered Access Rental Report 2011, available for purchase at www.ipaf.org/reports

The reports are presented in an easy-to-read format, highlighting key facts and figures for senior management, such as fleet size, utilisation rates and retention period. Seven individual country/regional sections are

included in the European report. New for this year is the analysis of fleet mix, comparing the proportion of scissors and booms. Special rates are available for IPAF members at www.ipaf.org/reports



The MEWP rental market across the 11 European countries under study.

Haulotte's Alexandre Saubot to give keynote speech at Europlatform

If you are heading to Maastricht this September for Apex, don't miss the Europlatform conference and its theme "Financing Growth". Europlatform takes place on 13th September at the MECC, a day before the start of APEX.

The keynote speech will be given by Alexandre Saubot, chief operating officer of Haulotte. Another top-level speaker is Kevin Appleton, former chief executive of Lavendon, who will address the topic of generating sustainable returns in the access rental sector. Maëg Videau, director of financing and M&A at Loxam, will speak on 'Successful Acquisitions'.

A reception will be held immediately after the conference to offer delegates an informal networking opportunity. Now in its fifth year the conference aims to give access rental professionals ideas for strategies to position their businesses for the recovery. Anyone who owns or manages an access fleet should attend.

Details on how to book, accommodation and getting to the venue are at www.europlatform.info



PDS reminder

IPAF-certified instructors and training centre staff in the UK should be sure to attend one of two Professional Development Seminars (PDS) being held this year. The Southern PDS takes place on 4th October at the Milton Hill House in Oxfordshire OX13 6AF, while the Northern PDS is on 6th October at the Best Western Shap Wells in Cumbria CA10 3QU. IPAF has agreed preferential rates with both hotels. Visit www.ipaf.org/events for details.



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