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# Low-Level access: publicly available specification

Work is now nearing completion on the Publicly Available Specification (PAS) for low level access equipment that the association has been developing in conjunction with the British Standards Institution (BSI). It will set minimum quality standards for low level access equipment such as podium steps and pulpit steps.

PASMA's primary concern, in common with the HSE, is about cheap, inferior products now flooding the UK market, especially in the construction sector, which offer limited protection to users by, for instance, not having adequate guardrail systems fitted as standard and not meeting minimum requirements for resistance to overturning.



For those sectors regulated by either the HSE or the local authority, the figures for 'low falls' of below two metres for 2009/2010 are:

Low falls	Employee	Self Employed	Total
Fatal injuries	5		5
Major injuries	2,963	213	3,176
Total	2,968	213	3,181

These figures **do not** include falls where the height was recorded as unknown. However, it is considered that these figures are relevant to 'low falls' since the absence of a stated height would indicate that this was not thought to be relevant at the time of report and is therefore less likely to have been a 'high fall'.

Unknown height	Employee	Self Employed	Total
Fatal injuries	5	3	8
Major injuries	762	54	816
Total	767	57	824

Source: HSE Slips, Trips and Falls from Height Team

## PASMA Council, who's Who?

Roger Verallo	Euro Towers	Chairman
Kevin Bellis	Atrium Access	Vice Chairman
Peter Bennett	PASMA	Managing Director
John Bungay	Youngman Group	
Carl Evans	HSS Hire Service Group	
Paul Gallacher	Pop-Up Products	
Alastair Lang	Turner Access	
Brian Meadmore	Generation Training Services	
Paul Pritchard	Alto Tower Systems	
Mark Turnbull	Speedy Asset Services	
Colin Wright	Alliscaff	
Mick Aston	Astra Access Safety Training	Co-opted
Chris Blantern	Hi-Point Scaffolding	Co-opted
Alistair Twigg	Zarges (UK)	Co-opted

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PASMA



## Stay on course

Through its approved training centres, the association trains around 50,000 delegates each year on the following training courses:

**Work at Height Essentials Course:** A course for anyone who knows little or nothing about work at height. This half-day course provides essential information about towers, plus an insight into the use of all forms of access equipment as represented by the member organisations of the Access Industry Forum (AIF).

**Low Level Access Course:** Developed alongside the publicly available specification (PAS), this is a half-day course aimed at personnel who work from prefabricated units of less than 2.5 metres in height. It includes guidance on how to use folding step units and folding tower units safely and productively.

**Towers for Users Course:** The PASMA 'Standard' course, now renamed the 'Towers for Users' course, is the association's flagship course aimed at personnel who are responsible for assembling, dismantling, moving and inspecting mobile access towers.

**Combined Towers for Users and Low Level Access Course:** This one-day course will benefit anyone who works from low level access units and standard mobile access towers. It includes guidance on assembling, moving, dismantling and inspecting both mobile access towers and prefabricated units of less than 2.5 metres.

For further details, and the location of PASMA training centres, visit [www.pasma.co.uk](http://www.pasma.co.uk)

## AIF round up

**Lofstedt Review:** On behalf of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), Peter Bennett recently presented evidence in person to professor Ragnar Lofstedt who is leading the government-sponsored review into health and safety legislation.

**Toolbox Talks:** A toolbox talk answering frequently asked questions about mobile access towers is now available to view on the AIF website. 10 minutes long and delivered by PASMA's technical manager, Don Aers, it can be seen at [www.accessindustryforum.org.uk](http://www.accessindustryforum.org.uk)



**Holy Grail:** A follow-up meeting of the contributors to the AIF's 'In search of the Holy Grail: No more work at height accidents, ever!' debate at this year's Safety & Health Expo, has resulted in the various organisations - including RoSPA, IOSH, BSC, IIRSM and HSE - agreeing an action agenda for the future.

**AIF Website:** This has recently been updated and expanded and is well worth a visit. It now includes free online videos of all the presentations given in this year's AIF Knowledge Base at the NEC, Birmingham, in May. [www.accessindustryforum.org.uk](http://www.accessindustryforum.org.uk)

## Technical update

**Review of EN1004:** At a recent meeting of the CEN Technical Committee, CEN/TC 53, in Berlin, the UK delegation headed by PASMA managing director Peter Bennett, was successful in persuading its European counterparts that a review of EN1004 - the product standard for mobile access towers - was necessary. Bennett has now taken up the convenorship of the working group - WG4 - which is charged with reviewing the standard. The first meeting of the newly reformed working group is scheduled for London in September.



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