

# Are **YOU** working **SAFELY** at height?



## Heightmaster Raising Standards

Heightmaster specialises in providing training, advice and consultancy to enable people to work safely at height.

Heightmaster began offering safety training in 2004 and quickly established itself as a recognised training provider within the Access industry. In just over two years, the company has trained more than 1800 operators of aerial work platforms.

The company with its head office near Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire is headed up by Keith Barnett, who with a team of training instructors work nationally from client's own premises or approved training centres across the UK.

### Recognised Qualifications

Fully accredited by IPAF and PASMA, Heightmaster works independently of equipment manufacturers and suppliers to offer uncompromised tuition to all its candidates who, if successful, are rewarded with national and internationally recognised qualifications.

The course portfolio includes training for powered access;

mobile access towers, low-level access such as steps and ladders and work at height and risk assessment.

### Planned Developments

Plans to develop the business in 2007 are already in place.

The company will recruit additional training instructors by the second quarter and widen its course portfolio further from May with the addition of 'Open for Safety' courses. Designed to encourage individuals and groups, the bi-weekly courses will run initially from the company's centres near Guildford and Warrington.

Heightmaster will exhibit for a second year running at the Safety & Health Expo (NEC May 22-24) where, in addition to introducing their new range of safety clothing and accessories, they will be hoping to build the customer base and promote the brand further.

**See us at the  
Safety & Health Expo,  
NEC, Birmingham,  
May 22nd to 24th  
Stand AA31 in Hall 12**



**Tel: 08700 771709**

**Email: [training@heightmaster.uk.com](mailto:training@heightmaster.uk.com)**

**Web: [www.heightmaster.uk.com](http://www.heightmaster.uk.com)**

# Working at height - getting it right

Making access safe, practical and productive will be the theme of this year's Access Industry Forum's Conference at the NEC on Wednesday, 23 May 2007. The AIF has arranged an impressive line-up of expert speakers including Bill Callaghan, Chair of the Health & Safety Commission, and Ian Greenwood, head of the HSE's Falls from Height Team.

Based on case studies featuring familiar workplace situations, the AIF team - including PASMA - will be demonstrating different solutions to the same problem, highlighting the pros and cons in each case. If booked before 20 April 2007 tickets cost just £95.00 each, including lunch. Email [conference@accessindustryforum.org.uk](mailto:conference@accessindustryforum.org.uk)



## Access the AGM

The PASMA AGM will take place this year in the Terrace Room at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole on Thursday, 24 May 2007. Situated adjacent to the exhibition halls at the NEC, it promises to be an ideal venue for members wanting to combine attendance at the AGM with a visit to Safety & Health Expo 2007 - Europe's leading annual health and safety event.

### CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - PASMA INSTRUCTORS

For the first time ever, the AGM will be followed by a professional development seminar as part of the association's stated policy of introducing a formal CPD programme. Further details on packages available, including accommodation and events at the Safety & Health Expo will be available shortly. More information at [www.pasma.co.uk](http://www.pasma.co.uk)

### For the record

The association has agreed with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) that the utilisation of PASMA's latest Tower Inspection Record, designed specifically for use with mobile access towers, constitutes full compliance with the inspection and record keeping requirements of the Work at Height Regulations.

Measuring just 195mm x 70mm, they provide a quick, simple and effective means of identifying and recording the status of a mobile access tower on site.

This latest PASMA safety item can be ordered on-line at [www.pasma.co.uk](http://www.pasma.co.uk)

Other PASMA safety products available include the Operator's Code of Practice, the PASMA Safety Video/CD and the PASMA PocketCard.



The Pasma tower inspection record



Sam Parker at the awards ceremony with guest speaker, Robert Higgs OBE, chair of the Heating & Ventilation Contractors' Association (L), and Willie Poching of Leeds Rhinos (R).

## 17 year old wins first PASMA shield

Sam Parker, 17, was the winner of the inaugural PASMA Shield at the Leeds College of Building, the UK's only specialist further education construction college. A second year roof, slating and tiling student, he is currently employed by G Horne Roofing Contractors Ltd.

## Can PASMA user cardholders supervise untrained operatives?

It could reasonably be argued that an operative using a mobile access tower, when it has been assembled and is in its completed state, need not be trained and competent in assembly, alteration and dismantling. However, such an operative would nevertheless require to be trained and demonstrate competence in the basic principles of work at height.

The Advisory Committee on Work at Height Training (ACWAHT) has defined a competent person as "a person with sufficient professional or technical training and knowledge, actual experience and authority to enable them to:

Carry out their assigned duties at the level of responsibility allocated to them. Recognise potential hazards related to the work (or equipment) under consideration. Detect any defects, or omissions in that work (or equipment), recognise any implications for health and safety caused by those defects and omissions, and be able to specify a remedial action to mitigate those implications."

The answer to the essential question posed is that, since assembling, altering or dismantling a mobile access tower is also "work at height", the operative engaged in assembling, altering or dismantling must be competent in this activity, "or if being trained, is supervised by a competent person". [WAHR, Reg. 5]

This leads to the conclusion that mobile towers should not be assembled, altered or dismantled by non-PASMA (or equivalent) trained operatives, since the Regulations state that such activity can only be undertaken by such a person if that person is being trained, and is under the supervision of a person who is competent to conduct that training.

It is PASMA's assertion that a person who is trained as a user is not competent to train other users, since they would not have been trained or assessed on their ability to "carry out their assigned duties at the level of responsibility allocated to them", i.e. in this case, their ability to train others.

## Guidance notes

The Association is the process of producing a series of Safety/Technical Guidance Notes, the first of which "Stairway/Stairladder Tower Assembly" is available now. Others in the final review stages include guidance on tying in, low level access units and the use of towers in rigging netting. These Guidance Notes will be available for download from [www.pasma.co.uk](http://www.pasma.co.uk) and there will also be a short print run of each.