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IPAF **PASMA**

All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.



Record apprentice intake for A-Plant

UK rental company A-Plant has announced it will recruit a record 150 apprentices this year - nearly four times as many as in 2014. The majority will be on three-year equipment maintenance programmes, with other programmes include delivery drivers, customer services, human resources, finance and credit.

A recent addition to the scheme is the Mechanical Engineering Apprenticeship for A-Plant's PSS Hire business which supplies equipment to the utility and civil engineering sectors. Last year A-Plant recruited 39 apprentices from 1,200 applications. Following the latest planned intake the company will have a total of 250 apprentices.

Company and owner prosecuted over fatality

UK building firm Peter Mawson has been fined £200,000 plus costs of £31,504 after an employee fell to his death. Company owner, Peter Mawson, was also fined £31,504 and handed an eight month suspended prison sentence, along with 200 hours of community service.

Jason Pennington fell to his death through a skylight



Jason Pennington, 42, was working on a roof in Lindal, Ulverston, in 2011, when he fell 7.6 metres through a skylight to the concrete floor below. He died shortly after arriving at the hospital. HSE inspector Chris Hatton said: "Peter Mawson knew the clear panels on the roof weren't safe to walk on but neither he, nor his company provided any equipment to prevent workers falling to their death. If scaffolding or netting had been fitted under the panels, or covers had been fitted over them, Jason would still be here today."

Mawson was also given a publicity order to advertise the incident on the company's website as well as to take out a half page spread in the local newspaper.

Construction opens doors

The UK's Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) has held its third Open Doors event, with over 5,500 young people of all ages visiting construction sites throughout the country. The initiative is intended to encourage more young people to pursue a career in construction.



5,500 school children visited UK construction sites in the CITB Open Doors event.

Suspended telehandler incident

Scottish contractor M&J Ballantyne has been fined £10,000 plus costs of £551 after Derek Graham, 51, was struck by a concrete beam being lifted by a telehandler on a site in Ketton, Rutland. The five metre beam, weighing 300kg, was suspended from the telehandler's forks using slings. Graham was then positioned to one side to prevent it from swinging.



A more suitable telehandler lifting hook

As the telehandler reversed the slings slipped, dropping the beam on to Graham. He was airlifted to hospital with severe pelvic injuries and is unlikely to return to work. An investigation found that the telehandler operator had not received any formal training, and that a method statement stated that slings should be securely choked around the beam and lifted using a sling-lifting eye. HSE principal inspector Tony Mitchell, said: "The lifting of heavy suspended loads with workers under, or in the near vicinity, is a high risk activity that can result in serious or even fatal injury. The dangers are well-known and understood in the construction industry, and there is ample free guidance available."

The company has since complied with an Improvement Notice and has purchased a suitable lifting attachment for the telehandler.

Spanish crane operator exams

Following increasing demand the US training company National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators has made its CCO Mobile Crane Operator exams available in Spanish.

Joel Oliva, director of operations and programme development, said: "NCCCO is committed to maintaining the same standard for all its candidates, whether they are English or Spanish-speaking. We are confident that the new exams provide a level playing field for candidates for whom English is not their first language."



Who trained them then?

Spotted 200 yards from an access rental depot in Wishaw, Scotland, four men using a makeshift ladder arrangement to secure a radio mast in high winds. One of the men has climbed a seven metre ladder resting on the mast, while the others attempt to keep it stable from the roof.

