

Are your staff properly trained?

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Mike Fenn Mobile: +44 (0) 7980 764021
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www.accessplatforms.com

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All training centres above offer IPAF approved and audited courses for Operators of Mobile aerial work platforms, European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

See www.ipaf.org for full listing



Liebherr now offers a range of mobile crane training courses at its UK headquarters in Bedfordshire.

New crane school at Liebherr

Liebherr Great Britain has opened a new mobile crane training school at its UK headquarters in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.

The fully accredited CPCS centre has been created specifically to provide certified compliance for lifting operations and lifting equipment requirements in accordance with British Standards for the safe use of cranes.

Courses range from basic operations to planning and managing complex lifting projects and involves both classroom and hands-on experience and assessment on a specially constructed crane proving ground. The school, which offers both statutory and tailor-made programmes, has its own dedicated 30 tonne capacity All-Terrain crane exclusively for use during the practical aspects of the training courses.

Approved qualifications and assessments are available in the following categories:-

- Intermediate Construction Training (ICT)
- National Vocational Qualification (NVQ)
- Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS)

Fit for purpose?

These two are installing or removing a cantilever platform for working over a canal. While the platform might well be ideal, the risks in erecting it are clearly not. The HSE warns that risk assessments must also



Working over a canal.

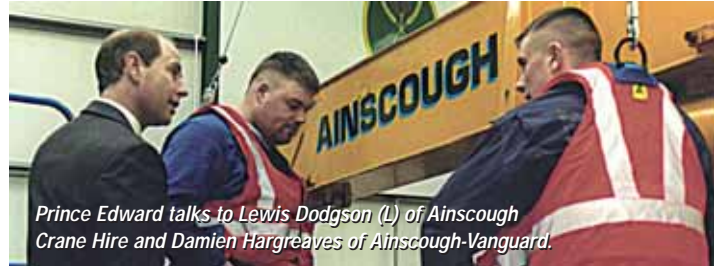
include the erecting of a given access method.

If the solution risks lives to erect and dismantle it, a different solution must be found.

These days few locations are not accessible by one form of powered access or another.

Prince Edward visits crane academy

Prince Edward paid a visit in February to the Crane and Plant Maintenance Academy at Myerscough College to view the facilities and to talk to students following a range of vocational training courses.



Prince Edward talks to Lewis Dodgson (L) of Ainscough Crane Hire and Damien Hargreaves of Ainscough-Vanguard.

The specialist training centre delivers Advanced Apprenticeships in Plant Maintenance, concentrating on mobile and crawler crane technology and repair. After the visit and meeting with students and staff, the Prince unveiled a commemorative plaque and signed the College visitor book.

John Holden, a lecturer in plant maintenance at Myerscough College said: "Prince Edward took time to talk to our students and showed a genuine interest in their work and the construction plant maintenance industry. Our students enjoyed his visit and appreciated his interest in their career subject."

CPCS to consult on scheme revamp

The CPCS has announced a consultation process in preparation for a major review of the scheme. The CPCS management committee says that it has already listened to the needs of scheme users and has taken on board the comments, criticisms and suggestions over the past 12 months from employers, its road shows and opinion in the media. It has used this to develop recommendations for the future of the scheme.

The consultation process, it says, is the next step in forming a blueprint for the future of the scheme. The consultation period will run until mid May, with revised plans for the scheme being unveiled in June.

Key proposed changes by the committee include:

- The introduction of a new CPCS technical test for all entrants to the scheme, removing the requirement for an Intermediate Certificate end test.
- To bring the Health and Safety test to the beginning of the qualification process to ensure workers are aware of health and safety risks before undertaking plant training or the CPCS Technical Test.
- Streamlining of administration processes to simplify and speed up paperwork
- Requiring candidates to register for the S/NVQ to be able to obtain a red 'Trained Plant Operator' card and reducing its validity to one year to encourage candidates to progress through the qualification.
- Removing age and experience criteria - the Health and Safety Test, CPCS technical test and relevant S/NVQ are all that would be required to obtain your card.
- Removal of the requirement for candidates to hold their Trained Plant Operator (red) card for six months before progressing to blue - to simplify progression through the scheme.

Comments and suggestions can be forwarded to cpcs.consultation@citb.co.uk

National



Tel: 0845 06 11 999 Fax: 01582 842590

Email: simon@panther.uk.com

www.platform-rentals.co.uk

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