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Clunk Click on every boom

The UK powered access industry has launched a major campaign to encourage everyone using a boom lift to wear a full body harness and short restraint lanyard as a matter of course. The campaign was agreed and launched at an extraordinary open meeting of the IPAF/CPA Access Interest Group (PAIG) on the 18th of December.

The meeting, held at AFI's new offices near Derby, was attended by most major access rental companies representing around two thirds of the total UK powered access rental fleet. The stimulus for the event was the increasing number of incidents around the world, in which the operators of boom type lifts had been catapulted out of the machine's basket to their deaths. In most of the recent cases, which were caused by passing traffic hitting the aerial lifts, a harness and properly adjusted lanyard would have kept the occupants in the platform and most likely saved their lives.

In a recent case where a bus struck the basket of an articulated boom lift, the operator had left his harness in the cab of his vehicle! While IPAF and most, if not all, manufacturers have been recommending the wearing of harnesses for many years, too many users leave them off on the basis that an accident will never happen to them. The promotion is similar to the popular 1970's 'Clunk click every trip' campaign to persuade people to wear seat belts in cars.

Industry calls on Contractors and HSE

The Group specifically called on the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), manufacturers, hire companies and main contractors to support this campaign to save lives through preventing ejection of users from boom platform baskets.

John Bradshaw, health and safety implementation manager at the UK's Major Contractors Group (MCG) told C&A that he "thought the campaign was a good thing", he also said that the MCG member sites already insist on this requirement but that he had written to all members highlighting the campaign and suggested that sites might be reminded of the need to enforce the wearing of harnesses with short lanyards. He said "the MCG was pleased to see it (the campaign) happen and will be actively encouraging its message."

He also said: "Given that most users of aerial lifts are not plant operators, and only use platforms from time to time as a tool to carry out their work, they might need to be reminded more frequently of the importance of using such equipment."

A set of three different sized stickers are available to be fitted to boom lifts.

This poster sponsored by 12 major UK companies is included free of charge in this issue.

The HSE has noted the campaign and will be supporting it.

The campaign kicks off with a poster featuring the strong message -

Clunk Click... wear a full body harness with a short lanyard in boom type platforms.

12 of the companies, attending the PAIG meeting along with the CPA, IPAF and the Vertikal Press, publishers of Cranes&Access, immediately agreed to help sponsor the printing of over 12,000 posters, a copy of which is included in this issue of Cranes&Access. Other large companies are printing up their own versions of the poster with artwork supplied by IPAF and will be distributing them free of charge to sites in their areas.

A series of stickers which carry the same message have been designed to be applied to boom lifts. IPAF has already printed enough small stickers to cover every single boom lift in the UK and Ireland which it is making available free of charge. Sets of three stickers, one large, one medium and one small can be ordered at a subsidised price of 19p from Atlantic Studios Ltd on 01271 374209, or by visiting the IPAF website. Nationwide Access, Facelift and AFI have already ordered enough sets to cover all of their boom lifts.



"We have enough stickers printed for every boom in the UK," said IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman. "It's time for action. If you have got a boom type platform, make sure you get a sticker and put it on the relevant machine. It could save a life."

Companies attending the December 18th meeting and endorsing the message included:

- AFI-UpLift
- AMP
- Active Rental
- A-Plant Powered Access
- AA-Access
- EPL Access
- Facelift
- Nationwide Access
- Panther
- Kestrel
- The Platform Company
- SGB
- Rapid Platforms
- Peter Hird Ltd
- Higher Access
- Kimberly Access
- Prime Serve Solutions
- Along with
- IPAF
- CPA and
- The Vertikal Press