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UKCG tool kit stresses PAL+ requirements

The UK Contractors Group's mobile elevating work platforms good practice toolkit has been reviewed and updated to include additional guidance surrounding the selection of aerial work platforms and ground conditions as well as on IPAF's MEWPs for Managers course requirements and Powered Access Licence (PAL/PAL+) competence.

First issued in January 2014, the tool kit specifically provides guidance for UKCG job sites and its supply chain, on how to plan, manage and use aerial work platforms on site, as well as how to ensure that they comply with all requirements.

The revised tool kit, which highlights competence requirements for operators/users, states that: "Operators of aerial work platforms will hold an IPAF PAL or CPCS



The revised UKCG tool kit is available on the Publications section of www.ipaf.org

qualification for the appropriate category. The UKCG recommends that all IPAF PAL qualified operators should obtain the PAL+ qualification within the first two years of obtaining their PAL qualification in order to demonstrate a higher



PAL+ is a requirement for net riggers and steel erectors working on UKCG job sites in the UK

level of experience and competence. It is likely that some UKCG members will have additional requirements, for example where there are high-risk work activities or where a challenging project means they only permit IPAF PAL+ qualified or CPCS Experienced Worker (blue card) operators to work on site." The document also reiterates the group's additional requirement, issued on 31st October 2013, that safety net riggers, steel erectors and associated trades working on member sites must hold a PAL+ qualification or a relevant CPCS Experienced Worker card. The document goes on to state: "Where

inexperienced workers or trainees need to gain experience prior to obtaining the PAL+ qualification, the worker may operate an aerial work platform only when supervised (in the basket) by a PAL+ qualified or CPCS Experienced Worker operator." The PAL+ is an additional one day of category-specific training aimed at operators working in higher risk or challenging environments. More information about the course and certification can be found at: www.ipaf.org/palplus



The Europlatform conference will be held at the Copenhagen Admiral Hotel in central Copenhagen

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Europlatform in Copenhagen

This year's IPAF Europlatform access rental conference will be held on 7th October in Copenhagen, Denmark. The conference is intended to provide the latest expert advice and strategic thinking on how to succeed in the access rental business. A networking event will also be held on the evening of 6th October.

The event itself will be held at the Copenhagen Admiral Hotel, housed in a converted 18th century dockside warehouse in the heart of the city, along the waterfront. IPAF has secured delegates a special room rate, with early bird conference rates available until 7th September. To book a place, visit: www.europlatform.info

UK member event and PDS

An IPAF UK member event will be held together with the annual Professional Development Seminar (PDS) for those based in the north of the country on 15th October at the Majestic Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 2HU.

Accommodation at the Majestic Hotel is available at a special rate of £99 on the night of the 15th for IPAF members attending this event. The PDS for those based in the south of the country will be held on 19th November 2015 at the De Vere Milton Hill House, Steventon, Oxford OX13 6AF.

Details of both events can be found at: www.ipaf.org/events

IPAF promoted the safe use of aerial work platforms at the Safety & Health Expo in London this June, as part of the Access Industry Forum (AIF).

IPAF technical & safety executive Chris Wraith also spoke at the IOSH conference on the subject of "Working at height: How leadership and innovation and drive change in the world's leading cause of death and injury in the workplace".

