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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.

A bucket is not an acceptable form of powered access platform



Fatal fall costs farmer

British farmer Roy Griffin, a partner in TRD Griffin and Son Partnership has been charged almost £14,000 following a fatal fall while using the bucket of a telescopic handler.

Griffin's herdsman William Luscombe, 65, was carrying out unplanned repair work on a dairy roof at Willsworthy Farm, North Tamerton in October 2010. He had been lifted in the bucket of a telehandler, stepped onto the roof and fell through a plastic skylight dropping three metres onto the concrete floor below. He sustained serious head injuries and was airlifted to Derriford Hospital in Plymouth but later died of his injuries.

The HSE investigation found that no plans had been made for the work as required under law. The court issued a £5,000 fine plus £8,800 in costs.

HSE Inspector, Georgina Speake said: "Mr Luscombe, although an experienced herdsman, did not have any training for working on roofs and was working without supervision. No equipment was provided which could have prevented or mitigated the effects of a fall, such as safety nets or suitable boarding. Although crawling boards were present on the farm, they had not been used and were too narrow to provide effective safe access on the roof. The use of a telehandler bucket was also an inappropriate way to gain access to the roof itself."

Scotland's Construction College achieves top award

Scotland's National Construction College has been awarded a 'Sword of Honour' after achieving one of the highest ever scores – 98 percent - in a five star health and safety audit by the British Safety Council.

The international award is open to organisations which achieve a five star rating in the BSC's Audit and is only presented to a very few organisations worldwide in any single year. The NCC Scotland trains around 6,000 people and 160 construction apprentices a year. It has 4,700 square metres of training space, consisting of 12 classrooms, seven conference and meeting rooms as well as 3,000 square metres of floor space dedicated to specialist construction training.

The presentation was made by Derek Mackay minister for local government and planning. Mackay said: "It gives me great pleasure to present this award to the National Construction College Scotland, which has set the benchmark for health and safety for the industry in Scotland."

"The college has a proven track record in delivering the highest quality of training, in world class facilities, to both present and future generations of Scotland's construction workforce and to have done so while achieving such high health and safety standards is to be congratulated."



Some of the team at Scotland's NCC show off the Sword of Honour

C&a

training



The crane slipped off the icy timber mats and overturned into the water

Fatal crane incident costs £228,000

The UK Environment Agency has been ordered to pay £228,000 after pleading guilty over the death of one of its crane operators. Simon Wenn, 43, died when the crawler crane he was operating slipped off its mats and overturned into a drainage canal, trapping him in the cab at Mepal in the Cambridgeshire Fens in December 2010.

The agency was fined £200,000 plus £28,000 costs after pleading guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act. Two other charges brought by the Health and Safety Executive were dropped.

After the crane overturned fire crews were called and broke the cab's glass in order to free Wenn but he was already dead.

The Health and Safety Executive said more could have been done to safeguard Wenn and that the Environment Agency had failed to discharge its duty to ensure the safety of its worker.

The agency's regional director Toby Willison said: "Simon was a popular and highly valued member of our operations team whose loss continues to be felt by friends and colleagues at work. We take health and safety very seriously and immediately after the accident we mounted a full independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident. We have also worked closely with the Health and Safety Executive, emergency services, our employees and the wider construction industry to develop new procedures for working on mats which did not exist before. These are being used within the Environment Agency and we have shared them with the Construction Plant Association to try to ensure that no-one else suffers a similar accident."

Who trained him then?

Spotted by a reader in Folkstone, Kent, UK in January, this ladder and platform combination. The man is using a 14 metre lift but clearly needs a little more outreach and height. The solution? A ladder to bridge the gap between platform and building! The chances of the platform moving and sending the ladder eight metres to the ground below, along with its user, is high. On the other hand he could simply slip off and fall.

