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Manufacturers release joint statement on operator entrapment

The US-based Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) and IPAF have released a joint statement on the issue of operator entrapment.

The statement reminds the industry that "application of any secondary protection devices remains subject to a thorough workplace hazard assessment by the machine user to ensure that the proper device has been chosen and specific training for operators to ensure that they continue to practise vigilance in identifying and avoiding obstructions regardless of whether a secondary device is installed or not. Prescribing one specific method of mitigation for all instances is not an appropriate strategy to ensure the safety of operators, occupants and bystanders."

See the full statement at www.ipaf.org



Existing guidance on anti-entrapment, as well as presentations from the IPAF seminar on this subject, are available at www.ipaf.org

First year of accident reporting reveals 31 fatalities worldwide

There were 31 fatalities worldwide involving aerial work platforms in 2012, according to preliminary results of IPAF's accident database. The main causes of these fatalities were: falls from platform (9), electrocution (8), overturning (6), entrapment (4) and mechanical/technical related (4).

Almost half the fatalities (16) involved booms (3b), 11 involved vehicle mounts (1b) and four involved scissor lifts (3a). Almost two-thirds of the fatalities (20) occurred in the USA, the world's largest powered access market. Three were reported in the Netherlands, two in the UK, and one each in Australia, Austria, Canada, Singapore, Spain and Switzerland.

"The accident database has been enhanced with new functions," said IPAF technical officer Chris Wraith. "A dashboard facility has been added which allows companies who report monthly to track and monitor accidents related to their staff, and from 2013, data will also be collected on mast climbing work platforms."

See the full report at www.ipaf.org/accident



The main causes of aerial lift accidents and the machine type involved

PAL Cards exceed 100,000 for the first time

IPAF issued a record 108,065 PAL Cards through its approved training centres in 2012, an increase of 10.8 percent over 2011. In total 112,887 people received IPAF training in 2012, when management courses are added for which a certificate is issued, an 11.3 percent increase over 2011. At the end of 2012, IPAF had 973 members worldwide and hopes to reach the 1,000 mark as it celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2013.



HSE supports training benchmark

The National Core Competence Benchmark (NCCB), of which IPAF is a founding member, is now supported by the UK's Health & Safety Executive (HSE), as confirmed by Rob Vondy, head of workforce and leadership policy at the HSE.

The NCCB was initiated by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and aims to ensure the transparency of health and safety qualifications by making clear to employers which health and safety qualifications employees need to hold and which training courses they need to take. The NCCB is a collaborative initiative and its website lists accredited courses and qualifications - including IPAF and ranks them against recognised training frameworks: www.nccb.info



Scottish government recognises PAL Card

IPAF has received confirmation from the Scottish Government's Procurement and Commercial Directorate that the PAL Card is recognised as fulfilling training requirements for companies engaged in public sector construction contracts.

In a letter dated 9th January, Colin Judge, principal adviser – construction procurement, said: "Given its worldwide standing we assume that public works contractors will, where appropriate, continue to accept membership of the International Powered Access Federation as proof of the relevant skills, training and safety awareness necessary for on-site staff."

Judge also quoted paragraph 7, Annex B of Policy Note 9/2012, which states: "Scottish Government does not prescribe CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) as the absolute or exclusive means for contractors to demonstrate compliance with the policy. Contractors performing a public contract can do so by reference to other means that they consider are equivalent to CSCS for assessing skills, training and safety in relation to the particular nature of the contract."

See the full statement at www.ipaf.org

IPAF Summit and IAPAs: Last chance for a ticket to Miami

If you are planning to attend the International Awards for Powered Access (IAPAs) dinner and awards ceremony and the IPAF Summit, this is your last chance to get tickets.



The event will be held on 26th March at the Hilton Miami Downtown Hotel, Florida, USA. The IPAF Summit will feature speakers such as Ron DeFeo, chief executive of Terex, Michael Kneeland, chief executive of United Rentals, Tim Hatch, JLG vice-president of engineering, and Sérgio Kariya, managing director of the rental division of Mills Estruturas e Serviços de Engenharia. Register now for the free IPAF Summit and book your gala dinner ticket at www.iapa-summit.info