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PASMA launches new training PhotoCard

Given that over 60,000 delegates a year pass through the various PASMA tower training schemes, the association feel that it is more important than ever that managers and supervisors can rely upon the validity and authenticity of PASMA training PhotoCards. It is essential employers or site managers etc retain the confidence and reassurance of knowing they are genuine. With this in mind, it has introduced a new-style PhotoCard designed to foil any attempts to forge them.



The new card, launched at the end of March, incorporates a number of sophisticated security features designed to make it virtually impossible to duplicate. According to PASMA, as more and more construction sites and workplaces insist on tower users being PASMA trained to ensure their safety and competency, the PhotoCard is becoming increasingly attractive as a target for fraud.

PASMA's managing director, Peter Bennett said: "By focusing on security we aim to protect companies and organisations from the risks posed by untrained workers and prevent people putting

themselves into unsafe situations by working at height without training. With so many fatal falls due to easily avoidable errors, PASMA is committed to ensuring that those working at height know the dangers and understand good practice."

Alongside the new cards, PASMA has also introduced an updated version of the certificate it issues to trained tower users. Similar to the cards, the certificates also incorporate security features as well as reflecting a new and more modern design consistent with the association's new branding.

Revised and simplified guidance for working at height

In recent months PASMA and other member organisations of the Access Industry Forum (AIF) have liaised closely with the UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE) following the recommendation of the independent Lofstedt Review that the Work at Height Regulations (WAHR) and associated guidance should be reviewed by April 2013.

Following this consultation with PASMA, the Forum and other principal stakeholders - including the Institution of Occupational Safety & Health (IOSH), the British Safety Council and trade unions - the HSE review concluded that where problems remain with the application of the Work At Height Regulations, they arise from misinterpretation rather than from the regulations themselves. This misinterpretation leads some to 'go beyond' legal requirements, while others, such as contractors and insurers, appear to be demanding a greater level of compliance than strictly necessary in order, it is thought, to reduce the risk of civil litigation.

Having received a report of the review including evidence and commentary from PASMA, the Forum and others across industry, the HSE Board has decided that there should be no changes to the existing regulations themselves. However, it suggests that the associated - and voluminous - guidance should be revised and simplified. The objective? To enable business and other organisations - particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to adopt practical and, most importantly, proportionate measures, making it easier for people to comply with the law and manage the risks associated with work at height in a sensible way.



WAHR: The findings, the outcomes and the actions



The Health & Safety Executive will address the issue of 'Lofstedt: The findings, the outcomes and the actions', in the Access Industry Forum's Working at Height Knowledge Base at this year's Safety & Health Expo on Tuesday, 14th May at 11.05. It will also take the opportunity to introduce two new guidance documents: INDG401 'Work at height: A brief guide to the law' and INDG455 'Safe use of ladders and stepladders: An employer's guide' (formerly INDG402 & 3).

For its part, PASMA will talk about 'New guidance to protect the public around mobile access towers' at 11.40 on the same day and 'PAS 250 new standard sets the benchmark for low level access' at 11.05 on 15th May.

Sponsored by PASMA, PAS 250 is the Publicly Available Specification for podiums and pulpits. It specifies

the requirements for a low-level work platform with one working platform with side protection, for use by one person, with a maximum work platform height of less than 2.5 metres. In particular, it specifies the requirements for materials, design loads, dimensions, strength and stability tests, marking and user instructions.

PASMA: Into the limelight at Vertikal Days



PASMA and its members will take centre stage at Vertikal Days 2013 by relocating to the popular Marketplace area.

The association will be on hand to offer advice and guidance and, along with member companies, deliver talks and presentations on the latest tower developments, safety and best practice.



As a PASMA member, if you have an interesting or unusual story to tell about towers and tower training, please send it to michael.fern@pasma.co.uk