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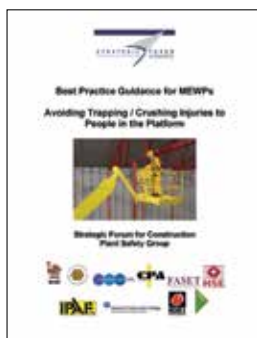
Secondary guarding, not anti-entrapment

During the first meeting of the re-established MEWP Safety Sub-Group under the Strategic Forum for Construction Plant Safety Group, IPAF proposed to adopt the term 'secondary guarding devices' in place of 'anti entrapment devices'.

IPAF technical officer Chris Wraith said: "The term anti-entrapment devices is, in the vast majority of cases, factually incorrect – as most devices are only activated once a person has become trapped. Furthermore, using the term anti-entrapment is thought to encourage complacent behaviour. Operators wrongly believe that an anti-entrapment device will prevent any overhead crushing or entrapment. They become reliant on the device and less vigilant of their responsibilities and working environment."

IPAF has always maintained that aerial lifts are safe by design and that standard equipment already protects operators. It therefore believes the term secondary guarding is more appropriate to describe additional protective measures taken following a job and site-specific risk assessment. Most industry experts agree that no single solution will prevent overhead crushing incidents from occurring. Prevention requires the combined efforts of operators, site management, rental companies and manufacturers working towards improvements in operator training, aerial lift management on site, clarification of supplier roles and responsibilities as well as continuing aerial lift design initiatives.

A good background document is the best practice guidance: *Avoiding Trapping/Crushing Injuries to People in the Platform*, available on the Publications section of www.ipaf.org



TÜV certifies IPAF to ISO 18878 and 9001

An on-site audit by TÜV has confirmed that IPAF continues to comply with ISO 18878 *Mobile elevating work platforms - Operator (driver) training* and ISO 9001 *Quality management systems*.

With no non-conformities found, IPAF fulfilled all requirements of the ISO 18878 training standard and continued to comply with the ISO 9001 quality management standard, exceeding the requirements in some areas. The audit was performed in mid-August at the IPAF head office and included an audit of practical training conducted at IPAF-approved training centre 1 Up Access in Bolton, UK.

The audit report highlighted IPAF's progress in continuous development of the organisation itself towards an integrated management system and its "highly organised management system documentation with very transparent lists and references".



TÜV auditor Miroslav Mikolasek (L) and IPAF audit and QC manager Lynn Price review documents as part of the ISO 18878 and 9001 audits.



Banger racing at first UK member event

IPAF held its first UK member event in early September, which featured a conference session in the morning and racing in the afternoon. A hundred people attended and there were 17 cars racing, with teams including Facelift, Haulotte, IPS, Lifterz, Manitou, Nationwide Platforms, Niftylift, Skyjack, Versalift and IPAF.

Versalift won the team trophy while the individual trophy went to IPAF's director of operations, Giles Councill. Congratulations to all who took part!

IPAF members enjoyed an educational and relaxing day, and the event will likely be held again next year.



Enter now to win an IAPA in Windsor

Entries are now open for the International Awards for Powered Access 2014. The awards ceremony and dinner, and the IPAF Summit, will be held on 3rd April at the Beaumont Estate Hotel in Windsor, in the UK.

There are 11 award categories, open to all companies and individuals in the powered access industry, including Access Rental Company of the Year, Contribution to Safe Working at Height, and Award for Outstanding Customer Service. Another two categories are designed specifically for IPAF member companies and individuals.

Awards are available for activities undertaken and for products launched in 2013. The deadline for entries is 20th December.

Entries must be submitted using the official entry form available at www.iapa-summit.info. Also at this website is more information on sponsorship, dinner bookings and the venue.



West London regional meeting

About 30 people attended IPAF's West London regional meeting, which garnered good feedback with one attendee commenting: "It was very good, with an interesting range of topics and speakers. All information was relevant and I was very pleased that I came."

Hosted by Mark Goodrum, managing director of Higher Concept Software, the meeting included talks from Fatimah Sulaiman-Hon, company development adviser at Construction Industry Training Board, who presented the latest changes to its Grants Scheme and explained how registered companies can retrieve levy money through claiming training grants, while Mark Sowerby of Brookes and Sowerby spoke on "Making social media work for your business". Presentations from the regional meeting can be found at the 'members only' section of www.ipaf.org.

The next regional meeting will be held on 28th November in Bristol. Register in advance at www.ipaf.org/events

At the West London regional meeting: good topics that were well-presented.

