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# Anti-entrapment should change to secondary guarding

The UK's Strategic Forum for Construction Plant Safety Group has unanimously agreed to change the terminology used for additional devices which reduce the risk of overhead crushing injury from 'anti-entrapment' to 'secondary guarding' devices.

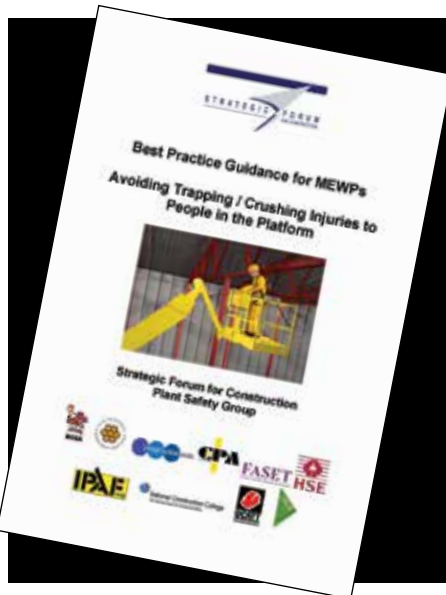
The group agreed with the proposal prepared by IPAF technical officer Chris Wraith which stated that all aerial lifts are safe by design and are fitted as standard with a function enable device which provides a primary guarding system. Any additional devices fitted to an aerial lift therefore offer secondary protection and should not replace good practice by management and the operator. Anti-entrapment devices do not prevent entrapment – they offer a secondary guarding option to assist management in reducing the risk of serious injury from overhead hazards. As such the term anti-entrapment is incorrect and the term secondary guarding should be adopted by the industry.

Kevin Minton, CPA director and chairman of the SFPSPG, said: "The unanimous decision of this group, who represent all the key industry stakeholders, demonstrates how important this change to more accurate terminology is. The aim of the group is to agree on how to ensure the safe use of aerial work platforms in construction and we hope re-naming will make it clearer for managers and operators on site."

Chris Wraith, IPAF technical officer, added: "The term 'anti-entrapment' implies that the use of these devices will prevent entrapment, even though it is recognised that there is no single solution to prevent overhead crushing incidents from occurring. A reduction in serious incidents will only come about by the combined efforts of operators, site management, hire companies and manufacturers working towards improvements and this re-naming is a step in this direction. Secondary guarding is a much more accurate term based on sound reasoning that describes this equipment and devices for what they are."

Further guidance on the prevention of entrapment when using aerial lifts is available to download from the 'Publications' section of [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org).

*The Strategic Forum's Best Practice Guidance for MEWPs.*



An operator using a PAL Smart PAL Card

## PAL Card goes smart

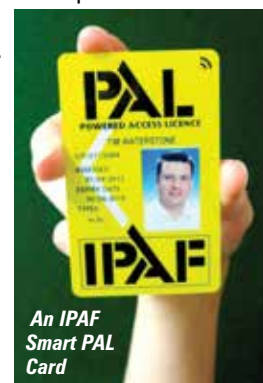
IPAF has launched a Smart PAL Card (Powered Access Licence), available in different languages, which is machine-readable. The Smart PAL Card looks the same as the standard PAL Card (which will continue to be issued and accepted on site) except it is embedded with a data chip and marked by a wireless icon. All data stored on the card, such as the operator name, number and categories trained in, will also remain printed on to the card.

A card reader fitted in an aerial lift can be set up to recognise certain data which determines whether or not the machine can be operated. This data includes whether or not the operator is trained, to what level and in which machine categories. No additional personal contact details are contained within the card. Using a Smart PAL Card along with a reader device allows control of machine access and thus improves site safety. Site managers can use the system to ensure that only correctly trained operators can operate aerial lifts or mastclimbing work platforms. They can also track who has used which machine for how long, and prevent fraudulent use.

Smart PAL Cards have been tested extensively on multiple machines by operators on site. They can be read by virtually all card readers and there are no restrictions on which smart card readers are used. Operators or companies can specify if they wish to be issued with a Smart PAL Card or a standard PAL Card when booking courses with their IPAF-approved training centre.

The validity of a card can be checked by using the online verification tool at: [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org)

For more information on IPAF training and the PAL Card visit: [www.ipaf.org/pal](http://www.ipaf.org/pal)



An IPAF Smart PAL Card

## Bristol regional meeting

The Bristol regional meeting held at the end of November was hosted by Andy Pearson, managing director of Prolift Access. It featured excellent presentations by Brian Smith, HSE director from Midas Construction, on the UKCG MEWP Toolkit, and by Leigh Sparrow of the Vertikal Press on the economic sustainability of the access industry. Presentations from the regional meeting can be found at the 'members only' section of [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org).

IPAF regional meetings are a simple and effective way to learn about the industry and network with colleagues and business associates - for upcoming regional meetings visit: [www.ipaf.org/events](http://www.ipaf.org/events).

*(L-R) Brian Smith, Leigh Sparrow, Andy Pearson with Chris Wraith and Giles Councill of IPAF.*

