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PASMA welcomes simplified HSE guidance

PASMA has welcomed the launch of the new simplified Health & Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on working at height:-

INDG401: 'Working at height - A brief guide'

INDG455: 'Safe use of ladders and step ladders - A brief guide'

Since the publication of the independent Lofstedt review of health and safety regulation in 2011, the association has cooperated with the national regulator to help produce clear, easy to follow guidance that gives everyone a better understanding of the practical implications of the Work at Height Regulations - which remain unchanged.

PASMA chairman Chris Blantern said: "The regulations always were, and remain, fit for purpose. What needed attention was the accompanying guidance, an issue that has now been addressed following an extensive consultation period involving not only PASMA, but other work at height organisations and industry trade bodies, including the British Retail Consortium and the Small Business Trade Association Forum."

"Throughout this process the aim was to help business and industry - particularly micro and 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 working at height in a sensible way."



PASMA chairman
Chris Blantern

"PASMA welcomes the decision by the HSE not to modify the Work at Height Regulations which were, after all, introduced to help prevent the deaths and injuries caused each year by falls at work, but rather to produce new, simplified guidance designed to provide straightforward and uncomplicated advice to anyone working at height."

"I have no doubt that this new guidance, combined with the knowledge, best practice advice and professional training available from PASMA and other specialist trade associations and federations, will make a major contribution to advancing the height safety agenda."

To access the new guides or for more information on working at height visit: www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/index.htm or you can find them on www.vertikal.net in the online library.



Who will win through?

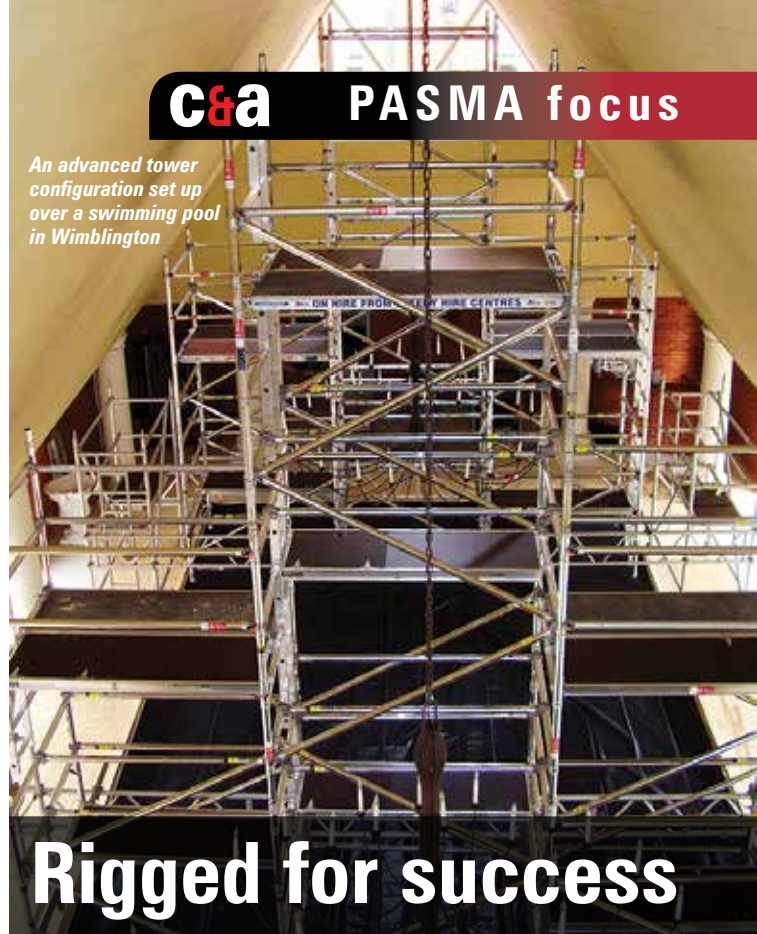
PASMA will be sponsoring the new 'SafeHire Company of the Year' category at the 2014 Hire Awards organised by the Hire Association Europe (HAE).

The award is open to SafeHire accredited members and is intended to acknowledge that safety, and the efforts to improve safety and the quality of working life, should be recognised and rewarded. The award will be judged on the scores of HAE members' SafeHire assessments rather than by a judging panel.

PASMA managing director Peter Bennett said: "As an organisation dedicated to promoting safety and best practice in the work at height sector, and long time supporter of the HAE Hire Awards, PASMA is delighted to be sponsoring this year's new SafeHire category. We look forward to recognising the company that has made the best contribution to advancing safety during the course of the year."



An advanced tower configuration set up over a swimming pool in Wimblington



Rigged for success

PASMA's new training course 'Towers for Riggers' took centre stage at the recent Executive Hire Show for the tools, equipment and plant hire industry at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry, England. Developed specifically for people working in the hire and assembly sector, the five-day course covers all aspects of assembling and using advanced configurations of mobile access towers - a fast growing sector of the market.

In a short handover ceremony the Youngman Group, which supplied the tower components for the advanced course, presented PASMA's managing director, Peter Bennett, with a framed copy of a complex build drawing and a folder containing calculations and technical information.

Choosing a safe mobile tower

The Health & Safety Event at the NEC, Birmingham on the 11-13th March, will mark the launch of a new PASMA safety campaign advocating the importance of only buying and hiring mobile access towers that conform to European standard EN1004, which specifies the minimum safety requirements.

The principal message of the campaign is that the correct selection of a tower is essential to safe working and that a user's life or the lives of others may depend on it. The campaign is supported by the Hire Association Europe (HAE) and the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). Posters and leaflets will also be available promoting the critical safety features of EN1004 towers.

PASMA's leaflet stressing the importance of EN1004 mobile access towers



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