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Vertical
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Not on your life!

PASMA's new safety initiative on choosing a safe mobile tower was launched this month to highlight the importance of only using mobile access towers that comply with the minimum safety requirements of the European product standard for towers EN1004.

With falls from height remaining the biggest cause of deaths and major injuries in the workplace, PASMA is stressing the point that if you don't use towers that conform to EN1004, you not only risk your own life, but you also risk the life of someone else every time you use one.

Developed in conjunction with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), the campaign is supported by the Hire Association Europe (HAE) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA specifically to highlight the safety critical features of EN1004 towers which can be recognised by the EN1004 label.

Non-compliant towers, often referred to as 'Domestic' or 'H-frame' towers, represent a serious risk to users, as typically they are made from painted or galvanised steel, and use loose scaffold boards or do it yourself platforms which can break or move. They also lack built-in access to ensure safe ascent and descent and often do not come supplied with the correct size and quantity of stabilisers to prevent overturning.

In contrast, EN1004 towers have purpose-designed platforms with safe trapdoor entry and exit, offer built-in access, come complete with the necessary stabilisers, and have the required number and type of guardrails to prevent a fall.

Free leaflets and posters are available emphasising the serious and significant differences between the two types of tower, as well as reinforcing the message that selecting and using the correct equipment is essential to safe working. For more information visit:

<http://www.pasma.co.uk/scaffold-towers/>



Part of the EN1004 leaflet emphasising the differences between non-compliant and EN1004 compliant towers

Q&A symposium set to be UK first

PASMA will be amongst the trade associations and federations taking part in the UK's first ever Twitter symposium devoted entirely to working at height. Organised by the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and starting at 11.00 on Wednesday, 16th April, it will involve all nine member organisations of the Forum which will answer questions on any working at height related topic.



Anyone with a question for these industry experts can send it either before or during the symposium by tweeting it to: @AIFworkatheight. Anyone who does not use Twitter and would rather email a question can send it to: info@accessindustryforum.org.uk

Questions are being encouraged on the day of the event as representatives of AIF member organisations will be standing by to answer them, however they can also be sent in at any time between now and the event itself. Selected questions will be answered via Twitter during the symposium, but anyone who has emailed their question in will also receive a response afterwards.

Perfect for the pocket

A new handy-size PocketCard from the Access Industry Forum (AIF) has been designed to inform users 'What to watch when working at height'. On one side it advises users how to avoid, prevent and minimise the risk of a fall, and on the other it provides contact details of all the specialist member organisations of the Forum. For further information email: info@accessindustryforum.org.uk



AIF's new handy-sized PocketCard

Towers for Riggers

At this year's Executive Hire Show, held at the Ricoh Stadium in Coventry, the association unveiled its latest course Towers for Riggers.

Aimed at advanced users of mobile access towers, the course is currently available to all PASMA hire and assembly members. Delegates are shown how to assemble, use and dismantle complex towers in a variety of different configurations. The course reflects the growing use of mobile access towers in a wide range of different, and often demanding, applications.



An advanced facade tower structure erected in Aberdeen

PASMA's technical director Don Aers presented 'Take it from the top' at the inaugural Health & Safety Event held at the NEC in Birmingham earlier this month. He joined a line-up of speakers, which included representatives from the Health and Safety Executive, Rolls-Royce and solicitors Pinsent Masons.



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