

"The right equipment properly used" was the message of the IPAF sketch performed at the HSE's demo area.

1,000 Minimax employees to be **IPAF-trained**

Minimax, worldwide provider of fire protection solutions with headquarters in Bad Oldesloe, Germany, is investing in high-quality and standardised training for its employees and will use the IPAF training programme for its platform operators.

"The IPAF training enables us to carry out installation work at height with maximum effectiveness and safety," said Stephan Boock, manager of installation services. "About 1,000 of our employees will be trained in the safe and effective use of platforms. Minimax will also promote the benefits of IPAF training among its suppliers."

Hands-on at SED

IPAF attended the SED construction equipment show in May, joining forces with the HSE and PASMA to promote safe work at height. Facelift Access Hire became the latest company to gain the IPAF Rental+ status. Companies awarded the IPAF Rental+ quality mark have been audited to meet defined standards in customer service, safety, staff training, contract terms and machine inspection.



PAL Card goes international

The PAL Card (Powered Access Licence) is helping to facilitate cross-border working and is now recognised by the safety authorities in many countries, including: the Berufsgenossenschaften in Germany, Assodimi in Italy, the SSV in the Netherlands, the Scaffold Industry Association in the USA, Asociace ZZ-CR in the Czech Republic and the Major Contractors Group in the UK.

Tim Whiteman, managing director of IPAF, said: "If you have migrant

workers on site and they show you a PAL Card issued in another language, you can be sure that they have received 95 percent of the same top quality training certified as conforming to ISO 18878. The five percent difference lies in the language and country-specific health and safety legislation. This means that a worker who has done PAL Card training in Czech will be able to use platforms safely and effectively on a UK site, although he or she will need to be made aware of relevant national regulations and site rules."

Amendment of Machinery Directive published: **IPAF seeks manufacturers' comments to develop guidance**

The 3rd Amendment of the Machinery Directive (2006/42/EC) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 9th June 2006. Copies of the Directive can be obtained from the Eur-Lex website, a link to which is at www.ipaf.org

The new Directive comes into force on 29th June 2006. Member states' regulations should then be in place by the 29th June 2008, coming into force no later than 29th December 2009. At the Machinery WG meeting in Brussels on the 8th June 2006, the Commission stated that "there is no transitional period" for the new version of the Directive.

This means that manufacturers will have to comply with the Directive by the 29th December 2009 at the latest. The lack of a transition period was supported by member states negotiating the Directive, on the basis that a transitional period is not necessary because the essential requirements of the revised Directive simply advance the standards of the existing Directive. It is assumed therefore that manufacturers who comply with the old Directive (98/37/EC) will have few problems in adapting and complying fully with the new Directive by 2009.

See full story at www.ipaf.org

IPAF international

- More than 120 people attended TABS, the first German-language event dedicated to platform safety held on 13th June in Frankfurt. TABS was jointly organised by IPAF and the Vertikal Press.
- AWPT, IPAF's North American subsidiary, has met with senators in Boston to discuss safety issues, following an accident involving a mast climber.
- The first Italian Professional Development Seminar (PDS) held in Bologna on 1 June went down very well, with all Italian-language training centres attending.

IPAF meets BS8454

IPAF conforms to the new BS8454 *Delivery of training for work at height*, confirmed Managing Director Tim Whiteman at the Access Industry Forum (AIF) conference in May. "We welcome the standard," said Whiteman. "IPAF has done an internal audit and we are confident that we meet the requirements, which increases the benefits of our internationally recognised training programme for platform operators. We plan to have this also audited by a third, independent party."



Health and Safety Minister Lord Hunt takes control of a scissor lift, under the guidance of IPAF-certified instructor Ewan Smith.

The conference was opened by Lord Hunt, Health and Safety Minister, who praised the access industry for its efforts to improve safety for work at height.

Upcoming events

The PDS for UK instructors will be held on 14 September at the Hilton Manchester Airport. IPAF member manufacturers will next meet on 25 October at 14.00 hours in Bologna, in conjunction with SAIE. The telehandler committee will also meet at SAIE, on 26 October at 10.00 hours. SAIE will be the backdrop of the 4th IPAF Convention of the Italian Powered Access Industry on the afternoon of 26 October. Back by popular demand: The next IPAF AGM and Access Summit will be held on 27 March 2007 at Whittlebury Hall in Northamptonshire.



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