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New inspection guidance

IPAF has published a new technical guidance document covering the major inspection of aerial work platforms, aimed at keeping equipment safe beyond the manufacturer's design life. The document outlines an inspection scheme to validate structural integrity and functionality of critical components and suggests that work platforms should undergo major inspection within 10 years of originally going into service and every five years after that (10, 15, 20 years etc). It also reiterates that equipment owners should fulfil their legal obligations and ensure that aerial work platforms are maintained in good repair and safe working order by implementing regular inspection and maintenance programmes in accordance with all relevant regulations, legislation, directives, standards and manufacturer's requirements.

IPAF technical director Chris Wraith said: "The growing demand around the world for second-hand machines and the retention of machines in some rental fleets has led to the use of machines beyond the original design life. We need to recognise that there are machines in use which have been in service for 10 years or more which may not have reached their design life in terms of usage, or have reached their design life prior to 10 years because of intensive use or use in a severe operating environment. The harsher the operating environment, the more frequent the inspection should be. This is where the new guidance comes in."

The major inspection scheme can also be used to assist owners in determining if an aerial work platform is within safe design and use criteria when they acquire a machine with insufficient service history and inspection records, or determine whether a machine has been exposed to exceptional circumstances which may have affected its structural integrity thus jeopardising the safe use.

IPAF's new guidance is available on the association's Publications/Technical Guidance section of www.ipaf.org

IPAF's a new technical guidance stresses the importance of inspecting aerial work platforms.



IPAF elects Manufacturers' Technical Committee chairmen

IPAF's Manufacturers' Technical Committee has elected JLG product safety and reliability engineer Phillip Godding as chairman and Skyjack product safety manager Ian McGregor as vice-chairman.

Godding said: "Building on the work of my predecessor Brad Boehler, the IPAF Manufacturers' Technical Committee will continue to provide leading expertise and guidance on technical matters. I look forward to representing this committee, further strengthening the relationship of manufacturers with other IPAF members and leading our industry in the development of a clear long-term strategy for continued improvement."

The next IPAF Manufacturers' Technical Committee meeting will be held on 26th June in Amsterdam.



Phillip Godding



Ian McGregor



(L-R) Graham Dobbs, Brian Stead, Bob Murdoch, Jacques Valckenaere and Giles Councell

Walk the route

Last month more than 50 industry professionals attended IPAF's East Midlands regional meeting hosted by Brian Stead, managing director of Loxam Access, and Graham Dobbs, managing director of inspHire, for the opportunity to hear presentations on ground conditions, rescue and risk assessment, and telematics. In light of the flooding and ground subsidence that has recently occurred in the UK, Stead provided a vivid reminder of the need to assess the ground conditions when using aerial work platforms and the importance of watching out for sink holes and service ducts. He said: "Fail to plan and you will plan to fail. Make sure you look at the ready reckoner (IPAF's online tool to calculate the correct size of spreader plates) and walk the route. If in doubt, spread it out."

Delegates also heard from Bob Murdoch, Spanset height safety sales manager, who highlighted guidance on emergency rescue and risk assessment, and Jacques Valckenaere of Trackunit, who encouraged the industry to think beyond track and trace and highlighted how telematics add value to businesses. Presentations from the regional meeting are available at the member's only section of www.ipaf.org. The next regional meeting is being held on 11th September in East London.

Vehicle mounted manufacturers to meet

The inaugural meeting of IPAF's Vehicle Mounted Manufacturers' Technical Committee will take place on 26th June at APEX in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. IPAF is creating this committee to allow interested manufacturers of truck and van mounted lifts to consolidate ideas and identify key topics and potential work areas. IPAF president Steve Couling of Time/Versalift will chair this first meeting. Those interested in joining should contact Chris Wraith.

PDS dates

The IPAF Professional Development Seminars (PDS) for certified instructors will be held in the UK on 30th September for the North and on 4th November in the South.

Europlatform in Cologne

The Europlatform access rental conference will be held on 25th September in Cologne, Germany. Details at www.europlatform.info

