

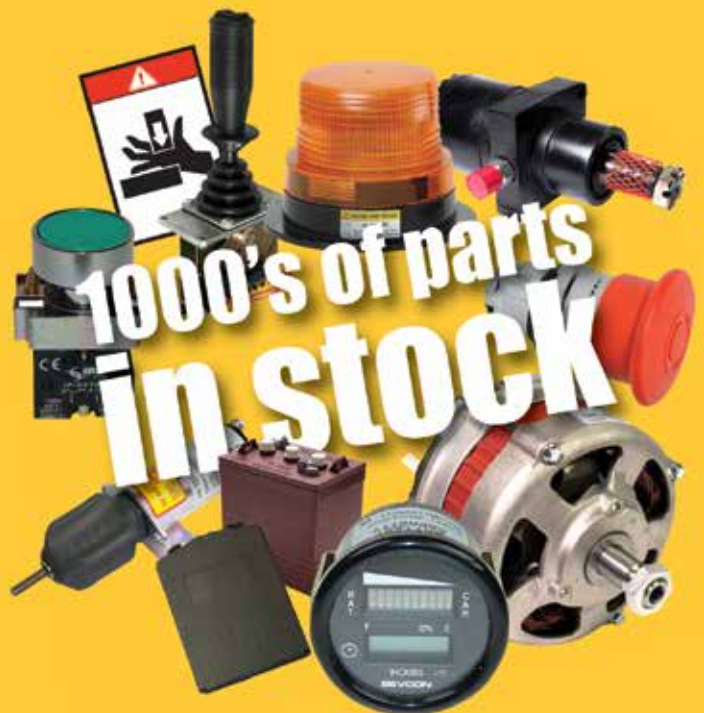


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Chris and Martin Wraith conducting a live demonstration on the IPAF's Safety Zone stand at Vertikal Days

# "Is it legal and safe to use?"

This was the question that IPAF technical and safety executive Chris Wraith and IPAF-certified instructor Martin Wraith of INATIV posed to visitors at Vertikal Days last month. Live demonstrations highlighted the need to keep aerial work platforms safe with good maintenance regimes ranging from pre-use checks to regular thorough examinations and major inspections.

A 15-minute recording of the demonstration has been posted on the IPAF website with two other videos which provide visual tours of how to conduct pre-start inspections for scissor lifts and booms.

IPAF guidance on the subject of inspections includes:

- Inspection key tags, which are a handy reminder of points to cover for pre-use and workplace inspections;
- Aerial work platform pre-use inspection checklist, which is a summary of visual and functions checks;
- Technical guidance on periodic

in-service inspection/thorough examination of a machine by second-party inspection bodies;

- Technical guidance on major inspection (ie 10-yearly) and thorough examinations;
- Competent Assessed Persons (CAP) programme, which is an assessment programme targeted at experienced engineers to allow them to plan, manage or carry out inspections/thorough examinations.

All inspection videos and resources can be found at: [www.ipaf.org/inspections](http://www.ipaf.org/inspections)

## Don Ahern to speak at Europlatform

Don Ahern, owner of US telehandler manufacturer Xtreme Manufacturing which took majority ownership of Snorkel earlier this year, will speak at the Europlatform access rental conference later this year.



Don Ahern to give talk at Europlatform later this year

Scheduled on 25th September 2014 at the Hotel im Wasserturm in Cologne, Germany, the one-day conference is targeted at

senior and middle managers of rental companies with access fleets. Also speaking is access veteran

Gordon McGruer, owner of Kardon Kontracts, who will discuss the management of big booms.

The conference will be held in English, with simultaneous translation in German and Italian. It will be preceded by an evening networking reception on 24 September at the same venue.

More details on the venue and registration are at [www.europlatform.info](http://www.europlatform.info)



The UK HSE has warned that control shrouds do not protect against entrapment

## HSE warning on secondary guarding

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has issued a safety alert which advises that: "covers/shrouds on machine controls do not protect against entrapment of operators between the machine and nearby obstructions".

The HSE alert also directs duty holders to two industry guidance documents that may be used in assessing and reducing the risk of entrapment or crushing accidents when operating aerial work platforms:

1. the Strategic Forum for Construction Plant Safety Group's Best Practice Guidance for MEWPs: Avoiding Trapping/Crushing Injuries to People in the Platform (reference 1);
2. and IPAF's Guidance on Secondary Guarding Devices (reference 2).

Both documents are available at the Publications section at: [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org)

The alert was based on the HSE's review of seven fatal accidents involving aerial work platforms in which operators were crushed. In five of the accidents, the operator was crushed between an overhead obstruction and a cover/shroud fitted over the controls of the machine.

The alert further states that: "HSE acknowledges that it is not possible to conclude that the accidents involving shrouds would have been prevented if those machines had not been fitted with shrouds. Nevertheless HSE wants to share the conclusions of its review with those responsible for the selection of aerial work platforms (and secondary guarding devices) where there is a risk of entrapment and/or crushing of the operator."

The alert calls for the following actions:

- Duty holders should assess the potential for entrapment/crushing



The Strategic Forum's Best Practice Guidance for MEWPs: Avoiding Trapping/ Crushing Injuries to People in the Platform.

accidents in aerial work platforms for the specific tasks they are to undertake (see reference 1 above).

- Where a secondary guarding device is required (see reference 2), it should be selected for the specific application and its limitations should be clearly understood by those who will be using the machine.

- Covers/shrouds for machine controls should not be relied upon to reduce the risk of entrapment/ crushing more generally.

IPAF welcomes the HSE guidance and reminds the industry that no one particular device or equipment will prevent entrapment in all known circumstances. Aerial work platforms are a safe and efficient way to perform temporary work at height, but their use must go hand in hand with appropriate operator and management training, adequate familiarisation, risk assessment, proper planning and management of the work.