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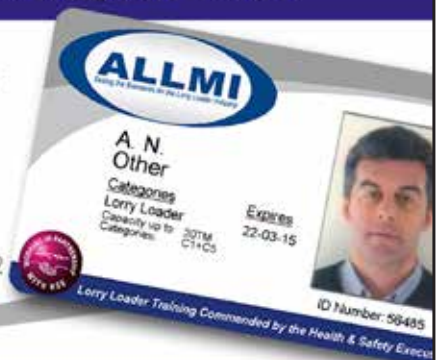
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PASMA promotes pulpit and podium safety

In its drive to introduce minimum safety and performance criteria for low level work platforms - commonly referred to as pulpits and podiums - all of PASMA's manufacturing members now comply with the requirements of PAS 250, the publicly available specification sponsored by the association.

PASMA is keen to stress that anyone responsible for sourcing or using low level platforms should only choose those products which have been designed, manufactured and tested to satisfy the stringent requirements of PAS 250. Amongst other things, PAS 250 covers strength and stability requirements and material specifications, together with design requirements for the working platform, side protection

(guardrails), access, mobility, labels and user guides.

PASMA's technical director Don Aers, said: "Designs for this type of equipment had previously been developed in the absence of any formal minimum standards. Without specific design criteria it was clear that some products were inherently unsafe and open to misuse and abuse. Specifiers should not think that because podiums and pulpits are fitted with anti-surf devices, that it's 'job done'. There are many other safety issues that need to be addressed to comply with PAS 250, chief amongst which is resistance to overturning."

A road show is planned in 2015 in conjunction with the Health & Safety Executive's Working Well Together (WWT) safety campaign, highlighting

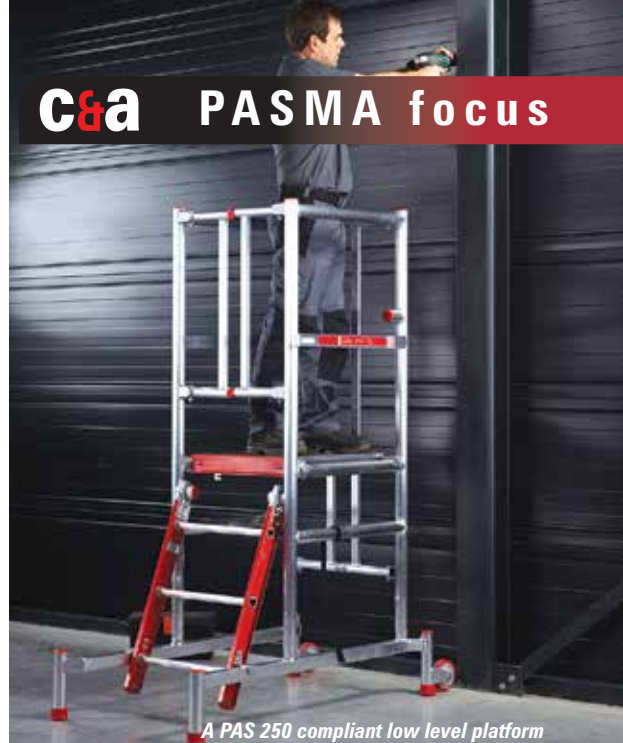
the safety benefits and advantages of PAS 250 pulpits and podiums.

PAS 250 is expected to become a full British standard by 2016. Championed by PASMA and developed in conjunction with the British Standards Institution

(BSI), its development has been supported by other organisations such as the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Hire Association Europe (HAE) and the UK

Contractors' Group.

For more information about PAS 250, or more information on PASMA manufacturing members, please visit: www.pasma.co.uk



A PAS 250 compliant low level platform

Free PAS 250 poster

'Find your way around PAS 250' is a free poster available from PASMA. It highlights the essential points of the specification, which covers low level work platforms designed for use by one person with side protection and a single working platform with a maximum height of 2.5 metres. For a copy of the poster, email: lynn.reid@asma.co.uk

PASMA's PAS 250 poster.



PAS 250 to feature in WAHikipedia

The PAS 250 standard will also feature in the Access Industry Forum's WAHikipedia website, which launches later this year. Aimed at becoming an indispensable and definitive resource for working at height, WAHikipedia will draw upon, reflect and deliver the collective expertise of AIF member organisations, and provide knowledge and guidance that can be applied in the workplace on a day-to-day basis. It will also provide key insights into the latest thinking and developments in work at height - PAS 250 being amongst them.



Change250 e-newsletter

PASMA's new digital newsletter, Change250, will keep members and the industry up-to-date with the work being done and the progress being made regarding the PAS 250 specification. PASMA recognises that attitudes and opinions need to change and that buyers and users need to be educated and informed about the advantages of the specification. To receive regular copies of Change250, email: lynn.reid@asma.co.uk

PASMA low level training

PASMA provides a specific training course for low level access (prefabricated units less than 2.5 metres in height) which includes the low level work platforms specified in PAS 250. The half-day course involves both a theory and practical session and includes safety critical information for the assembly, use, movement and dismantling of this type of equipment.

In addition, PASMA also offers an educational DVD, 'Accidents Can Happen Even at Low Level'. This DVD covers the safe use of low level access units, giving guidance on best practice to ensure low level access units are safe to use and how to assemble, move and dismantle them, as well as illustrating unsafe practices that should be avoided. The DVD is available to order through the PASMA website.

PASMA Tower Week

A full report on PASMA Tower Week, which took place between the 10th and 14th of November, and the 'epic journey' of PASMA chairman, Chris Blantern, will appear in next month's PASMA Focus page.



Please continue to send your images of 'tragically terrible' or 'truly terrific' towers to michael.fern@asma.co.uk