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IPAF **PASMA**

All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

Fall protection training

Capital Safety, the fall protection equipment supplier, acquired last year by 3M, held an event on 3rd March at its TAG training facility in Greenfield, Manchester, UK to promote its dedicated work at height training facilities and safety equipment to a wide range of visitors representing different industries. Sam Pickering of Cranes & Access went along to learn more.

The training site is based at an old Victorian textile mill on the outskirts of Manchester and includes a number of towers of various heights, which provide prime opportunities for practical training exercises for those who work at height. One tower - a modified Vestas V25 wind turbine tower - stands 30 metres high and provides trainees with the opportunity to climb and descend both the inside and outside, offering a training experience close to the real thing. I took the opportunity and thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the learning process, feeling fully secure with the help of the instructors and the supplied safety gear. Stephen Morris, Capital Safety's UK training and sales manager, instructed our group on the features of the equipment and how to safely climb both the wind turbine and a smaller



Trainees have the chance to work inside and outside of a turbine tower

telecommunications tower. While the theory sessions were very informative the realistic practical session brought the whole thing to life and made a welcome break from the classroom.

The site is one of three training centres the company has in the UK - the others being in London and Carnegie - and are part of a global network of 27 locations in France, Germany, Poland, Dubai, Singapore, China, Australia Brazil, Mexico, Canada and the USA. The company is probably best known for its harnesses, lanyards and fall arrest equipment which it sells under the Sala and Protecta brands, but it also offers a range of work at height courses from beginner to specialist as well as bespoke programmes to meet individual company requirements.



Stephen Morris explains the safety equipment



LMI override costs crane operator €4,500 and his job

A mobile crane operator in Germany was fined for overriding the LMI on his crane causing it to overturn and for being intoxicated. The man, 47, appeared before the district court of Fürstfeldbruck, in Bavaria accused of negligence while carrying out a construction related task. He was lifting a set of glazed patio doors, weighing around 1,400kg into the back of a house in Puchheim near Munich in June 2015. The boom on the 80 tonne Tadano was fully extended and lowered below 45 degrees, where the capacity is no more than 700kg with the counterweight installed. In order to complete the lift the operator

overrode the Load Moment Indicator - the crane overturned onto the house, causing more than €200,000 of damage.

The operator was issued with a €4,500 penalty notice, but decided to go to court, claiming a technical failure as the cause. In court he changed his plea to guilty to the charge of overriding the LMI in exchange for a lower fine. He was also accused of having a blood alcohol rate of 0.81 milligrammes. The man was fired by the crane rental company Schindler and risked losing his driving licence, given that he had driven some distance on the public highway, presumably while intoxicated.

Who trained them then?

Sent in by a reader a while back from the USA - a man using one of the biggest A Frame step ladders we have ever seen, and then standing on the top step! It looks like a JLG portable lift is available but we guess the desk was in the way?

