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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.

Company and a supervisor hit for \$130,000

Canadian company Oskam Welding and one of its supervisors - Chad Wheeler - have been fined for failing to inform, instruct and supervise an employee on the safe procedure for installing steel plates on a mezzanine which resulted in his death at a site in Guelph, Ontario in June 2014. It was also charged for fall protection and rigging violations.

Oskam was building a steel mezzanine structure at the Polycon Industries plant in the city and on the day the incident occurred the crew were placing the steel plates that made up the mezzanine floor. Ten plates had already been lifted one by one and placed by the deceased - age 22 and who has not been named - and a colleague. However, the co-worker had left for a toilet break, while the man continued on his own. He signalled for the crane operator to lower the plate into position and was using a crow bar to lever it into place, when he fell through the opening, dropping around four metres the ground. The plate also fell and landed on him. He was declared dead at the scene. The investigation revealed that while the two men had been wearing harnesses with lanyards, no anchor points had been installed so they were unable to tie-off. It also noted a lack of any guardrails or edge protection.

The company was fined \$125,000, while the supervisor was charged \$5,000. The court also implemented a 25 percent victim surcharge.



Fall costs £46,000

UK window company GFT Frames and construction company Parsons and Joyce Contractors have been fined a total of £46,000 after a man was injured from a fall.

GFT was installing glazed units for the contractor in a block of apartments in Bournemouth when one of its employees, Darren Shepherd, 54, slipped and fell while carrying window frames to the upper floor. There were no stairs in place just a ledge half way up, Sheppard had reached the ledge but slipped and fell 1.7 metres to the landing and a further 1.3 metres to the ground floor. He fractured two ribs and a broke his thumb.

An HSE investigation found GFT had failed to properly plan, supervise or carry out the work at height in a safe manner and that Parsons and Joyce failed to plan, manage and monitor the construction phase and failed to provide a site induction. GFT was fined £6,000, Parsons and Joyce was fined £20,000, both were ordered to pay costs of £9,953 each.

Poor scaffolding costs £4,700

OW Scaffolding of Bridgend has been fined for safety failings following a routine inspection. The company was working at Heol y Parc, Cefneithin last September when the HSE made a routine inspection which highlighted several safety failings, including poor planning, inadequate risk assessments, inadequate site supervision and inadequate and insufficient equipment. OW Scaffolding pleaded not guilty to breaching Work at Height Regulations but was tried in its absence, found guilty and fined £1,000 plus costs of £3,700.



Rofer charged £4,000 for unsafe work at height

Last year Cottage Linen of Hertfordshire contracted roofer Kerry Parmenter to carry out roof repairs to its facility, but called a halt to work when it saw the roofer and his team simply climbed onto the fragile roof rather than use proper access equipment.

It reported the incident to the HSE which made a site visit. It found workers were being put at risk by working on the roof without adequate controls and equipment and that Parmenter had failed to adequately plan, manage and supervise the work. He was fined £2,500 plus costs of £1,459.

New training centre for Mentor

UK training provider Mentor has opened a new access equipment training centre in Misterton near Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

The new centre is a joint venture with the Construction Training Academy (CTA) and is Mentor's fourth to offer both IPAF and PASMA accredited training courses for all categories of equipment. Built with three classrooms and a fully equipped warehouse with racking, the new location offers courses in aerial work platforms, safety harnesses and mobile scaffold towers. The new training site joins the company's centres in Chesterfield, Bromsgrove and Livingston.

Who trained them then?

Spotted in Elm Street, London at the end of April, a window cleaner risking his life on a fifth floor ledge.

