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All training centres above offer **IPAF/PASMA/CPCS** or other approved and audited training courses. European directives and most national regulations require that staff are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate. If you wish to become a sponsor of the Training & Safety page opposite by advertising, contact us on info@vertikal.net

£39,000 for scissor lift overturn

In the UK, waste equipment maintenance company Cole Mechanical Services of Chesham, Buckinghamshire was fined £30,000 plus costs of £8,995 after a man suffered serious head injuries when the platform he was using overturned. Geoffrey Hatton, 49, and a colleague were dismantling a compactor at a site in Wilmslow, Cheshire in January last year when incident occurred. The men were removing large sections of cladding from the frame of the compactor, when a section fell against the platform causing it overturn. Hatton fractured his skull and two ribs and spent two months in hospital.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found serious safety failings on the part of the company - the platform was being used outside when it was certified for internal use only, the two men were not trained in how to use the platform safely or on how to erect scaffold towers which they were also using on the site. And no risk assessment had been carried out for the work they were doing. At the time of the incident another man was also working on a fragile roof with no fall protection. The company manages waste handling equipment for major retailers.

Note: We believe that the machine involved was a slab scissor lift, but have not been able to confirm this.

£44,000 for fatal load slip

UK contractor Urban Summit Construction was fined £15,000 plus £29,127 in costs, following an incident in which David Holloway was killed when a load slipped out of the chain slings of a tower crane and landed on him. He was declared dead at the scene, in Colchester on 8th January 2014.

An investigation found that the company had failed to ensure that the lifting operation was carried out in a safe manner. The company was the main contractor on the site where 780 student apartments were being built. HSE inspector David King said: "It is essential that lifting operations are carried out in a safe manner, to help ensure the lift is carried out without risk to those in the area. Lifting operations must be properly planned by a competent person, carried out by adequately trained persons, and with appropriate supervision. Guidance on carrying out lifting operations safely is freely available on our website, if this company had properly planned and supervised this work, this tragic incident could have been avoided."



Apprentice Award for A-Plant

UK-based A-Plant has been named North West employer of the Year at the National Apprenticeship Awards 2016. The award recognises organisations in Manchester, Cheshire and Staffordshire and is presented to a company that grows its own talent through apprenticeships and recognises apprentices who have made a significant contribution to their workplaces.



Only the experienced need apply

The UK-based Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) has introduced a pre-qualification, requiring delegates to provide evidence of a minimum of two years relevant industry experience prior to taking its basic Scaffold Inspection course. The three-day course covers the fundamental requirements for legal, safe, compliant scaffolding and includes practical inspection, theory, report writing, and fault finding as well as an update on the latest safety and technical guidance.

CISRS scheme manager, Dave Mosley said: "Scaffold inspection is such an important area with far-reaching effects that we feel those attending the course should be able to verify that they have at least a rudimentary knowledge of scaffolding. They also need to be aware of the responsibility that comes with inspecting scaffolds, hence the pre-qualification change to two years relevant work experience. In the past, companies would send staff on scaffold inspection courses very early in their career to gain basic knowledge about scaffolding. We feel that a scaffolding awareness/introduction to scaffolding course is more suitable, until they have more of a working knowledge of scaffolding on site."

The organisation is considering a short duration scaffolding awareness course, for entry level training purposes.

Who trained them then?

Spotted on a prestigious Westfield/University extension site in San Diego, a man standing on the deck extension guardrails at least 10 metres above the ground.

