



The summit.

Summit 2006

Bookings open for the **access event** of the year

Book early for the **IPAF AGM and Access Summit** and enjoy a discount. The **Summit** is open to non-members and will feature speakers addressing a variety of topics on powered access. To register, e-mail your details to **info@ipaf.org**

The event will be held on 4 April 2006 at Whittlebury Hall, near Towcester in the Northamptonshire countryside.

Whittlebury Hall is close to the Silverstone racing track and offers excellent accommodation and golf facilities, with a gym and health spa. Don't miss this great event that will bring together the powered access industry in a relaxed setting! Watch this space for more details or visit www.ipaf.org. Call 01327 857857 to reserve your rooms. Ask for the **IPAF** rate.

Preliminary programme

Monday, 3 April 2006

IPAF Golf Challenge, IPAF Board and Committee Meetings

Tuesday, 4 April 2006

IPAF Council Meeting, IPAF AGM, Access Summit, IPAF Annual Dinner

Wednesday, 5 April 2006

IPAF Committee Meetings

New IPAF Technical Officer

IPAF has appointed Gil Male as its Technical Officer, starting 6 February 2006. Male will focus on providing advice on the technical and regulatory issues on the use of powered access equipment. He will work closely with the **IPAF** Manufacturers' Technical Committee and the Powered Access Interest Group on matters relevant to the industry.

Until recently Male was HM principal specialist inspector and head of the Engineering Plant Group at the Health and Safety Executive's Technology Unit. He played a key role in formulating and providing practical input and comment on health and safety regulations related to the use of mobile equipment. He continues to be closely involved in developing the new British standard code of practice for the safe use of MEWPs.

A chartered engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Male's

career with the HSE spans more than 10 years. His key achievements include: formulating Approved Codes of Practice and guidance on mobile work equipment that implement the Provision and Use of Work of Equipment Regulations (PUWER); representing the UK in formulating the European standard on risk assessment for machinery designers and formulating technical guidance to promote improvements in agricultural machinery safety under the Machinery Directive.



Gil Male joins IPAF

"Gil brings a wealth of experience in mechanical engineering," said Tim Whiteman. "His expertise will be a strong boost for IPAF's ongoing work in addressing the technical and legal issues facing the industry."

Commenting on his new role, Male said: "These are interesting times for the powered access industry. The Work at Height Regulations 2005 have certainly given much impetus to the need to identify and follow safe working practices when working at height. In the coming year we will be focusing on the revision of EN 280 to further develop design requirements under the Machinery Directive and on formulating two British standards, i.e. BS 8460 on the safe use of MEWPs and BS 8454 on the delivery of training for work at height. I much look forward to meeting these challenges with IPAF."



Whittlebury Hall: A perfect location.

PAL Card breaks new record

The number of PAL Cards (Powered Access Licences) issued by IPAF in 2005 passed the 50,000 target for the first time.

"The Work at Height Regulations have definitely made employers more conscious of the need to ensure that their platform operators are properly trained," said IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman. "IPAF's training

programme is compact and addresses industry needs, which

explains its increasing popularity. Experienced operators who have undergone training often say that it has made them more aware of safety issues in the daily use of these machines. All this feeds back to our goal of promoting safety and best practice in the powered access industry." IPAF's PAL Card is accepted by the Major Contractors Group (MCG) and recognised across industries as proof of training in the use of mobile elevating work platforms. The IPAF training programme for MEWP operators has been certified as conforming to ISO 18878.

Want to join the growing numbers of PAL Card holders? Take advantage of these promotions to get trained to work safely and correctly with MEWPs. The HSE is distributing vouchers to SME firms that give course participants a £10 discount at participating IPAF-approved training centres (www.ipaf.org/hse.htm).

Scottish Enterprise is subsidising 50 per cent of the IPAF operator course fees to help Scottish employees acquire new skills in the use of powered access (www.ipaf.org/scottish.htm).



Revision of EN280 to include over-riding of load and motion sensing systems and provision of anchor points

The revised EN280 standard for MEWPs is expected to allow an over-ride of load and moment sensing systems to rescue trapped operators in an emergency. Anchor points should be marked as "fall restraint only", and the relevant clauses from the Canadian and ISO standards are to be incorporated into the standard. These were some of the points discussed at the CEN TG98 WG1 meeting in London in November 2005.

On platform levelling, the committee agreed that manual levelling of the work platform is permitted, providing that the extending structure is stationary and that the speed of platform movement does not exceed that during normal operations. Requirements for the design of hydraulic levelling cylinders are to be drafted for inclusion in the standard, which will also be revised to take into account locking and dynamic

oscillating axles, by ensuring that the "worst case" positions are considered when undertaking kerb tests.

The topics of activation of a slope (tilt) sensor to cut motions rather than merely warn the operator and the adoption of electronic scissor guards are still open for discussion. The next TG98 WG1 meeting will be held in Barcelona from 7 to 9 March.

Do show examples of good practice at exhibitions

IPAF has produced an Exhibition Guidelines leaflet. The Guidelines recommend, among others, that high-traffic areas be cordoned off when moving and setting up machines, and that spreader pads be used beneath all outriggers. Free copies can be obtained from IPAF or at www.ipaf.org.

"Exhibitions are a great place to show the benefits of powered access and how platforms can be used effectively and safely," said Tim Whiteman, IPAF managing director. "IPAF has produced these simple and handy guidelines as a reminder of best practice during exhibitions."

Examples of best practice will be on display during the Intermat show from 24 to 29 April in Paris, at the powered access zone hosted by IPAF under an exclusive arrangement with the Intermat organisers.

When and where to use ladders

Ladders should only be used for low risk, short duration work, recommends the Health and Safety Executive in its new guides to improve ladder safety. If a ladder is assessed as the right piece of equipment to use, it should be in good condition, prevented from slipping and used by competent people. There should always be a handhold available.

"Nearly a third of major injuries from falls from height each year are caused by falls from ladders," said Dr. Elizabeth Gibby, Director of the Injuries Reduction Programme at the HSE. "These falls are preventable if people plan work properly, assess the risks and choose the right work equipment when working at height."

In 2004, 13 people died from falls while working on a ladder, and more than 1,200 people suffered major injuries.

The HSE's guidance builds on the Work at Height Regulations, which came into force in April 2005.

The guidance comprises:

- Safe use of ladders and stepladders – an employers' guide
- A toolbox talk on leaning ladder and stepladder safety, for employers giving refresher training to ladder users
- Top tips for ladder and stepladder safety, a pocket card for workers, giving key messages on ladder use.



The guides are available at the HSE website (www.hse.gov.uk) and also as hard copy documents from HSE Books, Tel: 01787 881165.



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