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At APEX the IPAF team sported new shirts with an international training logo

## In full force

  
at APEX

There is a straightforward solution for companies in the powered access business who want to reduce risks: training that teaches platform operators about risk assessment, equipment selection and effective use. IPAF Managing Director Tim Whiteman highlighted the need for training in his talk *Can untrained workers operate aerial platforms?* during the APEX conference in Maastricht last month. "We firmly believe in a voluntary, industry-led training programme backed up by legislation," he said.

IPAF used the event to launch a number of new products and initiatives, including

a training DVD that features digital animations of moving machines and new training courses for mast climbers and telescopic handlers (when used to lift people). These were actively discussed during the meetings of IPAF's Mast Climber (MCWP) and Telescopic Handler Committees. The courses are expected to be launched by year end.

At the Manufacturers' Technical Committee meeting, a working group was formed to establish procedures for manufacturer members in the issuing of product alerts and to provide tools for sharing such information.

## Scottish funds for training

Scottish Enterprise, Scotland's main economic development agency, is subsidising 50 per cent of the IPAF operator training course fees to help Scottish companies train their staff in the use of powered access equipment and mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs). IPAF is supporting this programme through its network of approved training centres in Scotland. The programme is open to Scottish companies and runs until 2008. More details can be found at [www.ipaf.org/scottish.htm](http://www.ipaf.org/scottish.htm).

## PDS generates high interest

Close to 170 instructors attended the IPAF Professional Development Seminar on the 8th September in Manchester. Chris Gallagher of the HSE Safety Unit addressed how the work at height regulations will affect the industry. The current draft of the BS 8460 Code of Practice for the Safe Use of MEWPs was covered by Tim Watson of the IPAF/CPA Powered Access Interest Group and Chris Wraith of Nationwide Access presented the new IPAF course for the loading/unloading of machines.

The positive outlook for MEWP use and training also came across during the seminar. Training centres without rental activity reported that some 60 per cent

of their customers now come from outside the construction sector. Rental companies with IPAF-approved training centres are still geared towards

construction, which covers more than 50 per cent of training demand.

Rupert Douglas-Jones, IPAF International Training Manager, and Giles Councill, IPAF Scheme Auditor, presented updates on the new operator course, course material and electronic application system. A CD with the updated IPAF training operations manual will be sent out to training centres in October. At the seminar, IPAF again highlighted its call to the industry that sliding mid-rails must not be tied up.

C&A

IPAF news

## IPAF works with the HSE to boost training

"Need to do building maintenance work? Think about using mobile elevating access platforms and don't use ladders for all jobs". With this message, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and IPAF are working together to promote safety by giving small and medium-sized construction firms an incentive to get their staff trained. IPAF vouchers that give course participants a £10 discount at participating IPAF-approved training centres are being distributed by the HSE. Participating IPAF centres are listed at [www.ipaf.org/hse.htm](http://www.ipaf.org/hse.htm), and the vouchers are valid until 31 March 2006.

"The benefits of powered access are particularly relevant to specific trades such as decorators, electricians, plumbers, and general building maintenance," said Richard Lockwood of the HSE.

"The work at height regulations make it more important than ever for employers to ensure that their staff have received proper training." The HSE started a trial campaign in September at 14 Dulux decorator sites around the country. If successful, the promotion will be extended to other suppliers and trades.

"IPAF is delighted to be working with the HSE to promote the safe use of powered access by new users," said Tim Whiteman, IPAF Managing Director. "The plan to reach 50,000 painters/decorators over the next seven years will undoubtedly save lives and enable more people to work safely and effectively at height."

IPAF are supporting the HSE's efforts to promote the use of MEWPs with small to medium businesses.



**£10 discount voucher**  
on IPAF operator training  
**Don't take chances on work at height**

IPAF supports the HSE's campaign promoting MEWP use over ladders for all jobs. The HSE will provide up to £10 of the cost of your training. The voucher will be valid until 31 March 2006. The voucher is valid for all IPAF approved training centres. The voucher is valid for all IPAF approved training centres. The voucher is valid for all IPAF approved training centres. The voucher is valid for all IPAF approved training centres.

## Lower premium increases in 2004, but don't sit back

The increase in insurance premiums slowed significantly in 2004 to seven percent for employer's liability (EL) and four percent for public liability (PL) and professional indemnity (PI) insurance. In contrast, average rises in 2002 were 50 percent for EL, 30-40 percent for PL and 30-60 percent for PI. These findings are from the Office of Fair Trading's UK liability insurance market follow-up study, to which IPAF contributed.

The OFT noted in its June 2005 report that the lower premium increases should not give rise to complacency. Government and industry must continue to take initiatives to improve the way markets work, in order to promote long term benefits.



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