

Leading the training drive at APEX

IPAF is highlighting its call to the industry to ensure that their employees are using powered access equipment correctly and safely during the APEX exhibition and conference this month in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

"We are expanding the scope of powered access training to meet the challenges of using more complex equipment," said Tim Whiteman, IPAF's managing director.

"At APEX, we will invite manufacturers and users to comment on new training courses for mast climbing and telescopic handlers, that will be introduced at the end of 2005." A training DVD that features digital animations of moving machines will also be launched at APEX, where IPAF will promote its rapidly growing network of member training centres in Europe.

- APEX runs from 22 to 24 September at the Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre. Visit IPAF at stand number 1145.

- Tim Whiteman will speak at the conference on the morning of 22 September on *Can untrained workers operate aerial platforms?*

- IPAF's Manufacturers' Technical Committee (members only), MCWP Committee (open meeting) and Telescopic Handlers Committee (members only) will also meet during APEX. Details are available at www.ipaf.org.

Remember?

Harnesses on Booms

- If you're working with boom lifts, whether self-propelled or vehicle-mounted, don't forget to wear a harness with an adjustable lanyard set as short as is practical. This can save lives. IPAF's Technical Guidance Note H1/05/05 on safety harnesses is online at www.ipaf.org or can be obtained in leaflet form, without charge from the Milnthorpe office.

Don't tie up sliding mid rails

- Sliding mid-rails may sometimes get in your way, but they must not be tied up. IPAF urges its members to follow this guidance in the interest of safety. This follows concerns raised by the Brussels-based committee monitoring the implementation of the EU Machinery Directive 98/37/EC. Many IPAF manufacturer members have placed decals on machines indicating that mid-rails should never be tied up and IPAF is calling for hire companies to follow suit.



From left to right: Howard Schapira, SIA President; Tim Whiteman, IPAF Managing Director; Dennis Eckstine, AWPT Vice President; John Miller, SIA President Elect

IPAF, AWPT and SIA join hands to promote safety in lift access

IPAF and the US-based Scaffold Industry Association (SIA) have reached an agreement that will help improve safety in the lift and access industry through better and more consistent training. The agreement was finalised during the SIA's annual convention in Boston, Massachusetts on 27 July between IPAF Managing Director Tim Whiteman, and SIA President Howard Schapira.

Under the agreement, SIA will recognise and promote the PAL Card as proof of training in the use of aerial work platforms and mast climbing work platforms. AWPT will offer preferred rates and terms to SIA members wishing to operate as approved training centres. SIA has about 900 members, many of whom already provide training in scaffolding and suspended access, and also operate work platforms and mast climbers.

Work at height industry on track Results from IPAF's first major survey

Powered access is on an upward trend, according to the results of IPAF's recent UK membership survey. Almost 58 percent of hirers expected to be buying more units in 2005 than 2004 and 50 percent of end users predicted growth in the number of units they will have on site.

Some 47 percent of responding companies predicted growth in the number of persons involved with powered access equipment. Hirers were the most optimistic about growth (54%), followed by dealers/ distributors (25%) and manufacturers (13%).

About 44 percent of responding companies have 10 or more persons working with powered access equipment, while 15 percent have more than 50. As you might expect, safety is the top priority, 92 percent of respondents offer operator training courses, with 76 percent naming the IPAF training course as the specific programme offered.

When it came to satisfaction with IPAF membership, most of the respondents said that they are happy with IPAF's services, 87 percent perceived membership as offering good value for money.

Competent person courses

Platform engineers working on legally mandated machine inspections and maintenance can now be certified under the Competent Assessed Persons (CAP) programme at three IPAF-approved training centres in the UK: Access Platform Sales, Central Access, and Nationwide Access.

Professional Development Seminar

More than 150 instructors attended the IPAF Professional Development Seminar in Manchester on 8 September, which focused on the work at height regulations and IPAF's new loading and unloading course. (More news in the next issue.)



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