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New policy manager

Chris Cassley has joined the CPA team in the new position of policy manager. His role will include analysing external and internal influences on CPA policy and strategy, while working with CPA council and other team members to develop and implement policy, to further the best interests of CPA members.



Chris Cassley

Cassley joins the association following 16 years with the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) where he was lead policy advisor for the EU Science and Innovation campaign. He was previously medium sized business campaign manager and manufacturing and construction council policy advisor.

Speaking of his appointment he said: "I am delighted to join the CPA team. Machinery and equipment is the backbone of the construction industry and the CPA plays a vital role in representing the interests of the sector. I look forward to working with our members in developing and shaping this new area for the CPA as we meet the issues head on."

Chief executive Kevin Minton added: "Chris' appointment as policy manager is an exciting development for both our team and our members, as he will lead policy implementation in the interests of CPA members. Chris already has valuable experience of the UK construction market and has a great deal of expertise in analysis and implementation of key policies, so he will be a valuable addition to our team."

Work platform Open Meeting

The first Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group MEWPs Open Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th February at the Yew Lodge Hotel in Kegworth, Leicestershire. The meeting is open to anyone with an interest in the safe use of aerial work platforms, those interested in attending can email richard.whiting@ipaf.org. Speakers will cover Accidents and Reporting Systems, Operator Competence, Rescue of Persons from platforms and Secondary Guarding. It will be an interactive event with plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion, and an open forum towards the end of the meeting.



The group is chaired by the CPA and administered and supported by IPAF and co-ordinates the production of safety guidance documents.

CPA responds to ownership change of CPCS

CPA has had a long association with CPCS, dating back to its origins in the Certificate of Training Achievement (CTA) scheme. Following CITB's decision to sell CPCS. The CPA Council has been considering what the change of ownership means for CPA Members.

Chief executive Kevin Minton said: "Many CPA members will have employees who hold CPCS cards, and much of the equipment owned by our members will at some time be operated by a CPCS accredited operator. The scheme is an important part of many hire

companies' businesses. We want to make sure that the investment our members have made in training and competence is protected. We have therefore offered our support to NOCN, the new owners of the scheme, to help achieve a successful and smooth transition from the public sector into the third sector.



Regional open meetings for card schemes

The CPA will host a series of open meetings around the country this month, to encourage discussion about construction equipment card schemes.

The meetings are as follows:

Wednesday 16th January - Reading

Thursday 17th January - Solihull

Wednesday 23rd January - Leeds

Thursday 24th January - Stirling

The CPA has organised the meetings following discussions at a CPA Training on Plant in Construction event last April, which identified that members would welcome further clarification and updates on the current status of operator card schemes and their interface with construction sector employers.

One driver for discussion is the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), decision to sell the Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) card scheme for operators to an external organisation. The new owner is NOCN which offers a range of construction based qualifications, and purchased CITB's awarding organisation, CSkills Awards in 2017.

The aim of the meetings is to encourage debate on what should be the important elements for a modern card scheme. Following the meetings, the CPA will present the findings to industry through the TOPIC group as part of their wider focus on the skills agenda.

Chief executive Kevin Minton said: "These roadshows are part of our work looking at what longer term arrangements and structures the sector should have in place to give employers access to the right workforce for the future, and economic and efficient risk management measures." The meetings are free to attend but spaces are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Registration for each regional meeting can be made at www.cpa.uk.net/cardschemesopenmeetings/