

# IPAF launches online claims management service

**IPAF has struck an agreement with Alphatec Software for members to have free access to an innovative online insurance management system that can help reduce insurance premiums and increase the effectiveness of any claims made.**

**"This new facility is the first step towards IPAF providing full insurance services to our members," said IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman.**

**Preliminary results of our recent member survey put insurance high on the list of services that members would like us to introduce, and so we are acting on it."**

Alphatec's Claim Control is a risk analysis and management system that helps to cut insurance costs and streamline the administration of all types of incidents. It lets users identify, control and manage risk and provides them with the information needed to negotiate lower premiums with insurers. Data entered in the system is



IPAF is developing full insurance services, says managing director Tim Whiteman.

password protected and can only be retrieved by the relevant company. Under the agreement all IPAF members can have one free user license for Claim Control, together with standard customer support (response within 3 working days).

Through the use of the software by its members, IPAF will be able to collate anonymous aggregate statistics which can then be used to negotiate block insurance deals for members.



## Harness statement available

IPAF's technical guidance note H1/05/05 on safety harnesses is now available online at [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org) or in leaflet form, free of charge from IPAF in Milnthorpe.

IPAF technical guidance H1/05/05

## Sliding mid-rails must not be tied

**IPAF has written to all members urging them to ensure that sliding mid-rails are never tied up. This follows concern raised by the Brussels-based committee monitoring the implementation of the EU's Machinery Directive. The committee has expressed concern that the practice is common, even though it contravenes legal requirements.**

IPAF managing director, Tim Whiteman appeared before the Working Group of Committee 98/37/EC concerning Machinery in Brussels on June 8th and gave industry responses to concerns raised, in particular by Sweden's national delegation.

"The committee raised serious concerns about the use of sliding mid-rails but accepted that there was currently no obvious alternative. However, the subject will be reviewed at the next meeting," said Whiteman.

In response to the committee's concerns, many IPAF manufacturing members have placed decals on machines indicating that mid-rails should never be tied open. IPAF is calling for all manufacturers to follow suit and is asking hire companies to enforce the measure.

### Diary date

IPAF will hold a Cocktail Reception for all members at 17.30 on Wednesday 21

September in Maastricht, Netherlands. All members will be invited to attend the event, which takes place the evening before the APEX exhibition and conference.

## Access industry develops Code of Practice for safe use of work platforms

**A new Code of Practice for the safe use of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) is now out for consultation across the industry. A working group from the Powered Access Interest Group, which includes IPAF, the CPA and the Health & Safety Executive has produced a draft for consultation.**

The Code of Practice is published by the British Standards Institution (BSI) and takes into account three key safety regulations: the Work at Height Regulations; the Provision & Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER); and the Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER).

It is aimed at equipment managers, operators, trainers and hirers, as well as those who enforce the safety regulations.

IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman said: "This Code of Practice sets the standard for best practice in the safe use of MEWPs. It is a valuable publication, which in due course ought to be on the bookshelf of every platform owner."

The content of the Code of Practice was described by Gil Male, head of the HSE's Engineering Plant Group Technology Unit, at the IPAF Access Summit in May. He said that it offered both information and guidance. Potential hazards faced by users of MEWPs are listed. Guidance is given on managing safety at the worksite, selecting and training operators, planning work, safe positioning of MEWPs and safe operation. There is also guidance on the statutory checks that must be carried out; maintenance and inspection; daily checks; and thorough examinations.

In planning work, users should identify the task to be undertaken, select an appropriate MEWP and carry out a risk assessment. The risk assessment should identify hazards, evaluate the risks and list control measures.

The Code of Practice also recommends the use of a safety harness with adjustable lanyard, adjusted to be as short as possible, when working from a boom lift. This is in line with IPAF Technical Guidance Note H1/05/05 on safety harnesses, published last month and available at [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org).

## PDS date

**IPAF's annual Professional Development Seminar will be held on 8 September at the Hilton Hotel in Manchester. The annual event is open to all IPAF instructors upon payment of a registration fee.**

**The seminar lasts for a full day. The programme and registration documents are available at [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org)**



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