

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **C&A**



Place your products in front of 17,000 crane, telehandler and access buyers & users who will be reading the April/May issue of **Cranes & Access**...

The issue will include:

C&A Annual Product Source Guide

The C&A annual product source guide is an invaluable reference tool listing every crane, access, telehandler and ancillary equipment supplier, along with their key contact details.



Heavy Lift Applications

We will take a look at some interesting heavy lift applications from around the world and bring you news on the latest on heavy lift cranes available.

Low Level Access and Trailer Lifts

A detailed overview of the market, latest developments and techniques covering push around scissor, mast and micro self-propelled lifts with a review of the latest product launches. Have you got any new to tell?



Road Rail Lifting and Access

We will take a look at lifting and powered access equipment used in the important role of the building, maintaining and clearing rail networks.



Send any information, news, photographs or ideas on these subjects to editor@vertikal.net

Every issue of **C&A** is also packed with our **regular columns, news** and **reader's letters, books, models, training**, along with the latest news from the **CPA, ALLMI, IPAF** and **PASMA**.

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Choosing a safe mobile access tower

When you buy or hire a mobile access tower, you want to be sure you're getting a safe product that's right for your job. PASMA recommends you consider five areas.

1. Brand

Choose towers that have been manufactured by PASMA members, who prioritise safety first. It's a condition of membership that their towers meet the most up to date standards and are independently certified by a recognised certification body. If you are hiring, a PASMA hire centre provides the same reassurance. If you need someone to assemble, ask a PASMA hire & assembly member.



2. Certification

Double check that your tower is certified to design standard EN 1004. This means it's been independently checked and certified by a recognised certification body. To be doubly sure, ask your supplier for a copy of the certificate. If they can't provide it, you should seriously consider another source – a reputable supplier will be able to give it to you.

Certification to EN 1004 guarantees the tower meets minimum safety requirements in place across Europe, such as:

- Purpose designed platforms with safe trapdoor entry and exit
- Built in access for safe ascent and descent
- Supplied with the correct size and quantity of stabilisers to prevent overturning
- Have the correct quantity and number of guardrails with the correct gaps and dimensions to prevent a fall

Note: there are various tower configurations that aren't covered by EN 1004, which come under BS 1139-6. However, this article is specifically about EN 1004 access towers - that's a straight up and down, single bay structure with four legs and wheels.

3. Capabilities

EN 1004 allows for mobile access towers to have different capabilities. When you're choosing a tower, pay attention to its designation code to make sure it will meet your needs. It will be marked on the tower and in the user

instructions – an example is EN 1004-3-8/12-ABXX-H1. When it's broken down, this code tells you several things:

- The load that can be placed on the working platform
- The maximum height it can be built to indoors and outdoors
- The types of built in access that are available
- The clear height i.e. the free height available for someone to move around on the platform

4. Training

Even an EN 1004 tower is only safe if it's assembled, inspected, used and dismantled by a competent person, who should have completed a PASMA Towers for Users training course while their managers and supervisors should complete PASMA Towers for Managers.

5. Instruction manuals

Even though the person assembling the tower is trained, they must always follow the instruction manual provided by the manufacturer or hirer. Manuals are considered so important for safe use that they have their own special standard, because they contain critical safety information, including:

- How to assemble the tower without ever standing on an unprotected platform
- The bracing pattern, which is what gives the tower its strength
- Which stabilisers or outriggers to use for the height of the tower you're building
- Guidance on maximum allowable side loads, such as the wind or use of high pressure jets
- The maximum safe working load that a single platform and the whole tower can support
- A schedule of the components and their number required for each configuration

A library of manuals can be found on PASMA's website/app.

With these five steps covered, you'll have the peace of mind you need to get on with the job at hand. Whatever you do, don't be tempted to buy a so called 'DIY tower' – there's a reason they are a lot cheaper!

STANDARD	REGION	COVERS	STATUS
EN 1004-1 (previously EN 1004)	European	Mobile access and working towers from 0m to 6m when used outdoors and 0m to 12m when used indoors	Updated 2020
EN 1298 (soon to be EN 1004-2)	European	Instruction manuals for mobile access and working towers	Under review
BS 1139-6	British	Tower scaffolds (towers outside the scope of EN 1004 but using EN 1004 components) e.g. towers on base plates, high level towers, cantilever towers, linked towers etc.	Under review
BS 8620	British	Low level work platforms (often called podiums)	Current

NOTE: European "EN" standards are preceded with "BS" when published in the UK, e.g. BS EN 1004.

pasma.co.uk

Awkward access challenges?

There are a whole range of scaffold towers available, from towers with advanced features like bridges or cantilevers right up to completely bespoke structures. So, what are the advantages of choosing aluminium towers for your awkward access job?

- Quick to build and dismantle – suiting tight timescales
- Lightweight – essential when the floor/ground can't hold steel or powered access
- Low carbon footprint – it travels in a transit van, not a 10 tonne truck
- Aesthetically pleasing – aluminium looks good in high profile locations
- Flexible – gets into awkward spaces
- Collective fall prevention at all times – no harnesses required
- Competitively priced

When you're looking for a company to install a tower structure for you, including complex, non-standard configurations, the service you need is known as 'hire & assembly'. For a list of PASMA hire & assembly members: <https://pasma.co.uk/hire-and-assembly/>



EN 1004 is changing

A new edition of EN 1004 - EN 1004 Part 1 - was published last year with the changes applying by 30th November. The main points to note are:

- All towers are now in scope – even those under 2.5 metres
- Towers will be even safer, thanks to various improved safeguards
- Smaller maximum distance between platform levels and the ground and first platform
- Expect innovations as manufacturers gain more freedom to develop products.

Learn more at pasma.co.uk/en1004



PASMA
Integrated access, erect and manufacturing association

www.pasma.co.uk

For more information about the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and the No Falls Foundation charity for working at height, please visit www.accessindustryforum.org.uk and www.nofallsfoundation.org