



# Summit 2005

**Conference, AGM, champagne reception and dinner  
Whittlebury Hall, Northants, UK 2pm Monday 16 May 2005**

**access industry + 16 May 2005 = IPAF Summit**

**IPAF Summit + YOU !! = Growing business**

## The new Work at Height Regulations came into force on 6 April. Will there be more revenue, more restrictions or just different work practices?

These are the questions that industry leaders will be addressing in the impressive setting of Whittlebury Hall, the location for this year's IPAF Summit and dinner on Monday 16 May.



The Summit is free and it is not just for IPAF members. Anyone with an interest in powered access or concerns about working at height is invited to attend, free of charge. Simply call IPAF to register (see panel for details). It starts at 2pm and closes at 6pm. Delegates are invited to the IPAF champagne reception which follows.

"This event is free to non-members as well as IPAF members because we want to get the message about the importance of safe working at height to the largest number of people possible," says IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman. "I am asking IPAF members to bring along customers as well as colleagues. It is important that everyone involved in working at height learns about the new regulations and their implications.

We have lined up a panel of expert speakers for this occasion."

The Work at Height Regulations implement the European Temporary Work at Height Directive (2001/45/EC), which is the second amendment to EC Directive (1989/655/EEC) on the provision and use of work equipment (PUWER).

The Work at Height Regulations (WAHR) will change the way that hire companies and their customers do business. "By bringing your customers to the IPAF Summit you, and they, can prepare for these new challenges and opportunities," says Mr Whiteman.

The regulations can be summarised thus:

- working at height should be avoided wherever possible - with a little planning many activities can be conducted safely from the ground.
- If not possible, then steps should be taken to prevent falls by either working from a

permanent, safe place of work at height, or by selecting the most suitable temporary equipment.

- Any remaining risk of a fall should be minimised, for example by using fall arrest equipment.

This does not mean, of course, that ladders are now outlawed and only powered access machinery is acceptable. It does, however, mean that working at height must be properly planned, and the decision making process regarding what equipment to use has to be more rational and embrace risk assessment techniques.

The new approach to risk assessments implicit in the regulations has been criticised by some as potentially overly bureaucratic. Others say that the legislation is justified and long overdue. According to the Health & Safety Executive, each year 50 to 60 workers are killed as a result of a fall from height and around 4,000 workers suffer serious injuries, representing the biggest cause of death and the second biggest cause of serious injury at work.

There was much debate about the so-called 'two metre rule', but after an additional consultation period at the end of last year, during which reservations were expressed by some parts of the construction industry, the Health & Safety Commission announced that it would not retain the 'two metre rule' for construction in the Work at Height Regulations.

The full impact of the WAHR will be spelled out at the IPAF Summit by

Chris Gallagher, a field inspector with HSE Safety Unit. He will address the issues of ladders, lifting personnel with crane baskets, risk assessments and other practical implications.



Tim Whiteman



Chris Gallagher



**Gordon Leicester**

The demand that fall arrest equipment (safety harnesses) be used to minimise risk will be thoroughly explored at the Summit. Gordon Leicester, managing

director of access hire company Facelift, is a strong supporter of the use of fall arrest equipment. "It should be like seat belts in cars – you just wear them," he says. They should be worn in boom lifts, truck mounts and trailer mounts, he says, but he makes an exception for scissor lifts. In scissor lifts a harness can itself present a hazard. It is important that the right type of harness is worn for the particular situation. Certain types of fall arrest equipment, used in the wrong application, can stop you hitting the ground but kill you anyway.

The correct use of safety harnesses will also be addressed by Gil Male, who is head of the transport and maintenance section of the HSE's Technology Division. Male has been closely involved in the development of a new British Standard



**Gil Male**

that is provisionally called 'The code of practice for the safe use of MEWPS'. He will explain what this standard will contain and what it says about fall arrest equipment.

Of course, what the access industry really wants to know most of all are the business implications of the regulations. In general, these are likely to be positive, since the use of powered access equipment is likely to increase at the expense of ladders.



**Leigh Sparrow**

The business opportunities for rental companies will be explored at the Summit by Leigh Sparrow,

publisher of Cranes & Access, a former IPAF president and former senior vice president of Upright International. In addition to increased demand for hire companies, training centres should also expect an upswing in business as employers take on board the full scope of their new responsibilities. Their risk assessment capabilities will need enhancing and their employees will need to understand fully how to select the right fall arrest equipment and how to use.

It is not just about making money, Sparrow says. There is also an opportunity to save money. Companies held liable for employees falling from height have incurred massive financial penalties. By embracing WAHR, this risk can be minimised.

John Robertson is an independent consultant with Time Consultancy, specialising in the



**John Robertson**

field of roped access. At the Summit he will explain how his clients are preparing for the new regulations and he will share the advice that he is offering them. Among Robertson's clients is the Metropolitan Police Service, with whom he works on special operations. For example, he worked with the marine response team that helped foil the Millennium Dome diamond robbery attempt. He has acted as roped access advisor to the head of the Counter-Terrorist Search Department and the Met's head of health and safety.

Robertson also works with ropes when off duty: he completed the first British ascent of Jogin 2, a 21,500ft mountain in Garhwal Himalaya.

Special guest speaker at the Summit is John Nichol. Nichol served in the RAF for 15 years, firstly as an engineer and then as a Navigator on Tornado aircraft. He became one of the most famous faces of the first Gulf War in 1991 when he was shot down,



**John Nichol**

captured and held as a POW for 7 weeks. He is now an author, broadcaster and journalist. His capture was clearly an awful experience, but as an engineer by

background, Nichol believes it offers lessons for anybody confronted by demands for mechanical excellence and dynamic change.

The IPAF Summit is not just about education, however. There is also plenty of opportunity to relax and socialise. All Summit delegates are invited to the IPAF Champagne Reception which follows the Summit and is an excellent opportunity to network with fellow attendees, meet the IPAF team or perhaps pin down one of the speakers to learn more or exchange views.

This is followed by the IPAF Annual Dinner, for which tickets are available (see How to Book) with after-dinner entertainment from Bob "The Cat" Bevan — part-time golfer, cricketer and



**Bob "The Cat" Bevan**

goalkeeper, and one of Britain's most celebrated after-dinner speakers. IPAF members are invited to bring partners, customers and/or colleagues to this event and consider taking a whole table (10 seats or more per table).

For those wanting to make a weekend of it, to take advantage of all that Whittlebury Hall has to offer, there is an IPAF Golf Day at the adjacent Whittlebury Park Golf & Country Club on the day before the Summit. Contact IPAF for details.



# agenda

- 14.00** Welcome Tim Whiteman, managing director, IPAF
- 14.10** WAHR + HSE = Improved safety
- Chris Gallagher, field inspector with HSE Safety Unit. What impact will the Work at Height Regulations have in the field? Can ladders still be used? If so, where? Is it illegal to lift personnel with crane baskets? Who should do a risk assessment? How long does it have to be? These and many more practical implications are only now being spelled out.
- 14.45** WAHR + platforms = More business
- Leigh Sparrow, managing director, Vertikal Press  
Leigh Sparrow, a former IPAF president and former senior vice president of Upright International, explains why the WAHR means more business for rental companies.
- 15.30** WAHR + BSI = New work practices
- Gil Male, HM principal specialist inspector and head of the transport and maintenance section of the HSE's Technology Division. Gil Male has been closely involved in the ongoing development of a new British Standard called 'The code of practice for the safe use of MEWPS'. He will explain what this standard will contain and what it says about fall arrest equipment.
- 16.15** WAHR + harnesses = Saved lives
- Gordon Leicester, managing director, Facelift.  
Selecting the right fall arrest equipment, and using it in the right way, saves lives.
- 16.40** WAHR + maintenance/cleaning = More business!
- John Robertson, consultant, Time Consulting  
John Robertson specialises in roped access. He explains how his client base is preparing for the new regulations and shares the advice he is offering them.
- 17.00** Questions + Answers
- The panel is open to questions.
- 17.15** WAR + capture = New way forward
- John Nichol  
Flight Lt John Nichol became one of the most famous faces of the first Gulf War when his Tornado was shot down and he was captured by the Iraqis. He was held for seven weeks. As an engineer, he believes this awful experience offers lessons for anybody confronted by demands for mechanical excellence and dynamic change.
- 17.45** Closing remarks
- 18.00** Close
- 18.30-19.30** Champagne Reception
- 19.30** IPAF Annual Dinner
- Guest speaker: Bob 'The Cat' Bevan**



## IPAF GOLF DAY

For the first time, IPAF is holding a Golf Day on Sunday 15 May, the day before the Summit. This four ball tournament is open to golfers of all standards but early booking is recommended as places are limited.

Phone IPAF on **015395 62444** to sign up.

Time: Meet 13.45 Sunday 15 May

Location: Whittlebury Park Golf & Country Club (adjacent to Whittlebury Hall)



## THE VENUE

Whittlebury Hall, Whittlebury, Towcester, Northants NN12 8XW

Whittlebury Hall is one of Britain's leading management training and leisure facilities, in the heart of the Northamptonshire countryside, close to the Silverstone motor racing circuit. It has a first-class pool, gym and health spa complex. It is within 30 minutes of the SED show site in Milton Keynes. SED starts on the day after the IPAF Summit and the SED organisers are laying on a free shuttle to transport IPAF Summit delegates to and from the show on Tuesday.

For further information, to book accommodation, or to get directions, visit [www.whittleburyhall.co.uk](http://www.whittleburyhall.co.uk)



## HOW TO BOOK

Attending the IPAF Summit is free to anyone interested. To register, simply pick up the phone and call IPAF on 015395 62444.

Alternatively, email your details to: [info@ipaf.org](mailto:info@ipaf.org)

To book accommodation contact Whittlebury Hall on 01327 857857 [sales@whittleburyhall.co.uk](mailto:sales@whittleburyhall.co.uk) or [www.whittleburyhall.co.uk](http://www.whittleburyhall.co.uk)

Tickets for the IPAF Dinner must be booked in advance and the cost per person is £49.95 + VAT. Book a table of 10 get and get an extra ticket free. Total price for 11 tickets is £499.50 + VAT. Book a table for 25 get a 15% discount. Please call 01539 562 444 or email [info@ipaf.org](mailto:info@ipaf.org)

## REASONS TO ATTEND

1. Hear expert speakers from across industry and the HSE
2. Discover the implications of the new Work at Height Regulations
3. Network with clients, and colleagues
4. Get involved in the powered access industry's trade association
5. Learn more about how the industry works, what drives it and what impacts upon it
6. Relax at IPAF's Annual Dinner, the industry's social event of the year
7. Laugh along with Bob 'The Cat' Bevan, the after-dinner speaker
8. Take part in the first ever IPAF Golf Day on Sunday 15 May at Whittlebury Hall
9. Get a free ride to the SED show on the next day
10. You will enjoy it and learn from it.

