

IPAF steps up campaign to reward proof of training checks

A one month extension to IPAF's campaign to reward site managers who ask platform operators to provide proof of training, has been announced to coincide with this month's introduction of the Work at Height Regulations.

IPAF's 'Premiership Promotion' campaign has been running since the start of the year, offering site managers the chance to win free tickets to a Premiership football match if they ask powered access operators to show their Powered Access Licence (PAL) Card.

The 'Premiership Promotion' competition was initially planned to run for three months, but with the introduction of the Work at Height Regulations on 6th April, IPAF has decided to extend it. April winners will be able to choose tickets for a match next season.

To win the tickets, all site managers need to do is ask operators of Mast Climbing and Mobile Elevating Work Platforms to show their PAL Cards and then send details of the Card holder to IPAF. His or her name is then entered in the month end draw. If they win, the operator whose details are submitted also wins a pair of tickets. Six pairs of tickets are up for grabs this month – three for site managers and three for the operators. Competition rules are available from IPAF or on-line at www.ipaf.org.

IPAF's Tim Whiteman said: "It is crucial that site managers get into the habit of checking the credentials of platform operators. Too many people fall into the trap of thinking that just because powered access equipment looks easy to operate, they can use it without proper

training. This is simply not the case. Training is essential to safe working."

He added: "Correct training is a key plank of the Work at Height Regulations, so with this new legislation in place it is now more important than ever. The Health & Safety Executive has made it clear that site managers have a responsibility to ensure that operators on their sites have received training to recognised industry standards. I hope that this 'Promotion' gives site managers an extra incentive."

More than 40,000 PAL Cards were issued last year. Training courses leading to the award of a PAL Card are only available from IPAF-approved centres. Courses generally last one day and thanks to IPAF's on-line processing, PAL Cards are dispatched within 24 hours of the operator satisfactorily completing the course.

Details of your nearest IPAF-approved training centre can be found at www.ipaf.org.

Football ticket winners in the March draw, were:-

Stuart Mitchell, IMS Manager for Carillion Plc, Sheffield, who checked the PAL Card of Timothy Hanslip of O'Donnell Site Services.

Harry Smith, Safety Advisor for H. Malone & Sons Ltd, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who checked the PAL Card of Darren Downens.

Edward Hawksey, Health & Safety Advisor for Morris & Spottiswood, Warrington, who checked the PAL Card of David Hay.

The final draw for the next six winners will be held in early May, so there is still time to enter.

IPAF operator training achieves ISO 18878 certification

IPAF has received formal confirmation that its training programme for operators of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) meets the new international standard ISO 18878.

ISO 18878:2004 Mobile elevating work platforms - Operator training (driver) was published in September 2004.

The standard was produced by the ISO Technical Committee TC 214, with strong involvement from IPAF. The committee was chaired by Dennis Eckstine, vice president of IPAF's North American subsidiary, AWPT.



ISO commands international respect; so too will its newly approved operator training standard ISO/FDIS 18878:2004.

"International standardisation of operator training is a hugely significant step for the industry as well as for IPAF," said Kevin Appleton, CEO of Europe's leading access rental company Lavendon Group.

"It confirms that a PAL Card signifies not only that the holder has received training – training certified to recognised international standards. No other scheme has this credibility."

IPAF's training programme and procedures were certified as meeting ISO 18878 by TÜV, the highly-

regarded German certification agency, on 23 February.

ISO 18878 does not provide detailed course plans but covers the framework of contents and procedures to which training needs to conform. It states that trainees must satisfy the trainer of their competence in both practical skills and theoretical knowledge.

Significantly, the standard draws a clear distinction between training and 'familiarisation'. The latter, it points out, is to introduce already properly trained operators to the specific details of an individual machine.

Tim Whiteman, managing director of IPAF, said: "This new international standard offers - for the first time - a clear yardstick on how MEWP operator training should be delivered. It represents the distilled wisdom regarding best practice from both sides of the Atlantic.

"TÜV has independently confirmed that the IPAF training programme meets all the requirements of the standard. This means that wherever people see a PAL Card, they will know that the operator has received training that meets internationally recognised standards. IPAF is the first organisation in the world to be certified as conforming to this standard" he added.



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