

Rapid Platforms wins first IPAF Rental+ mark

Rapid Platforms, based in Bishops' Stortford, Hertfordshire, is the first company to achieve the new IPAF Rental+ quality mark. Four other companies have also been audited and are expected to achieve the mark in the coming weeks.

The IPAF Rental+ mark shows that the holder meets far more

than the minimum legal standards and offers a quality-enhanced service with significant benefits for customers.



IPAF initiative gets tickets checked

IPAF is offering an incentive to UK site managers to check the licences of operators of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms and Mast Climbing Work Platforms by offering the chance to win free tickets to top football matches.

All site managers need to do is submit to IPAF (by fax or email) the details of a PAL Card that they have checked. Then both they and the PAL Cardholder are automatically entered into a monthly draw. Licensed operators who are asked to show their PAL Card can also win free football tickets.

The competition runs from January until the end of March. Six pairs of tickets to the match of the winners' choice are being distributed each month (three pairs to site managers, three to platform operators).

January's winners were:

- Site manager *Stuart Thompson of Laing O'Rourke Civil Engineering - T5 Heathrow Airport and Paul Richardson, the platform operator whose PAL Card he checked*
- Site manager *Steve Lewis of Pearce Construction, and PAL Cardholder Gary Anthony Jackson*
- Site manager *Dave Rowe of Sir Robert McAlpine and PAL Cardholder Kenneth Naylor.*

"We want to make sure that it is a matter of routine for all site managers up and down the country, in all sectors of industry, to check the credentials of mobile elevating work platform operators," said IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman.

Full competition rules and entry instructions can be found at www.ipaf.org

CAP scheme expands

IPAF approved training centres are being invited to add Competent Assessed Persons (CAP) training to their services. The CAP scheme audits engineers to validate their competence to check machines. British standards require that "a competent person" makes a thorough examination of machines, but the definition of competence has always been subject to interpretation. The CAP scheme clarifies any ambiguity for the access industry. Companies using a CAP certified engineer can be sure that they are in compliance with the standards.

Until now, IPAF has been delivering CAP training and assessment directly, but it is now looking for training centres that are willing to add this function to their existing operations. Centres with an engineer who has the requisite knowledge and experience to train



and assess other engineers are invited to contact Rupert Douglas-Jones at IPAF to become approved CAP training and assessment centres. The first centres are expected to be appointed by April.

IPAF has organised the following CAP open assessment courses:

17 March - Wakefield

14 April - Bishops Stortford

12 May - Wakefield

16 June - Bishops Stortford

Please contact *Eleanor Morrison* (eleanor.morrison@ipaf.org) for further details.

Approved training for hire desk controllers

Natalie Smales of Aerials for Industry (AFI) is the first holder of a brand new IPAF qualification for hire desk controllers. The IPAF approved training programme for hire desk controllers was the initiative of AFI director Austin Baker. After finding no formal training programmes for this key function, he approached IPAF and together they developed the course.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time that there has been an approved qualification for hire desk controllers for the access rental industry," he said.

Natalie Smales completed a six-month, in-house training programme, administered and controlled by AFI's operator training centre, Insight. Three more AFI employees are also completing the course. The programme is now available to all IPAF members. Contact Rupert Douglas-Jones at IPAF for further details.

and the access industry's annual dinner, where the guest speaker is Bob "The Cat" Bevan.

For the first time, IPAF is holding a golf day on Sunday 15 May, as a curtain raiser to the big event. This is open to golfers of all standards and will be held at one of Whittlebury Hall's own courses. (Details from Rupert Douglas-Jones on tel: 015395 62444, rupert.douglas-jones@ipaf.org). For those attending

SED on the Tuesday, show organisers are providing a shuttle bus.

Register now for free tickets to the IPAF Summit and/or book your tickets for the IPAF reception and dinner by contacting Jean Harrison on 015395 62444, info@ipaf.org www.ipaf.org. To book accommodation contact Whittlebury Hall on 01327 857857 or at www.whittleburyhall.co.uk. A full preview of the IPAF Summit will appear in next month's IPAF Focus.



This year's IPAF Summit is being held on Monday 16 May at the luxurious Whittlebury Hall near Silverstone, conveniently close to the SED show in Milton Keynes, which starts the following day. The Summit will be followed by a champagne reception



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