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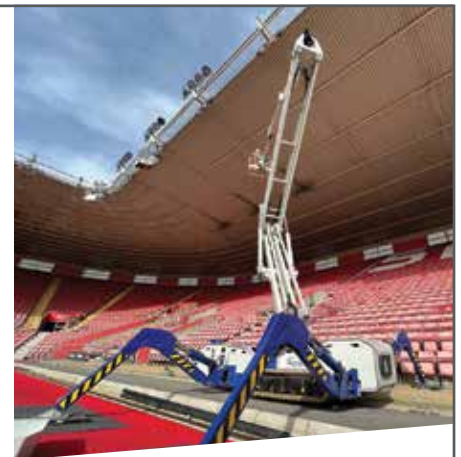
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Middle East manufacturing member

PASMA has welcomed its newest manufacturing member, Qatar based Affix Scaffolding, which has graduated from its 'working towards' programme after gaining product conformity certification to EN 1004.



'Working towards' is a programme for tower manufacturers who want to join PASMA, but don't yet meet the criteria for membership.

PASMA works with them to create a step by step development plan towards earning full recognition as a PASMA manufacturing member. Affix is the second manufacturer in the region to complete the process, with UAE based Ascend achieving its full membership status last year.

PASMA's new training hub

With a wider range of PASMA courses now on offer - 11 in total - there's never been more accredited training options for users of tower scaffolds and low-level access equipment, and those who manage them. To help those seeking training, PASMA has launched a new training hub on its website, which includes:

1. A new training centre directory: It's easier than ever to find your nearest training centre. The new directory has a map of all centres worldwide and a list that can be sorted by location or filtered by country. Users can also create a shortlist as they go.
2. A new guide to PASMA training: Users and managers can easily check which PASMA courses they need to do, based on their role and the equipment they work with, and which order they can be done in.
3. More information about each course: There's detailed, descriptive details available about each training course, giving potential delegates all the information they need to decide if it is the right course for them.
4. Frequently asked questions: Definitive answers to frequently asked questions about PASMA training, from 'is it possible to fail?' to 'what if I'm scared of heights?'.

Visit the training hub: pasma.co.uk/training

No Falls supporter scheme

PASMA has become a platinum supporter of the No Falls Foundation. For some time now the association has made a donation to the charity every time someone gets PASMA trained. The launch of the No Falls supporter scheme was an opportunity to formalise that support and show the world how deeply PASMA cares about height safety.



PASMA offers practical support to the charity too. Its staff can spend a portion of their working time helping No Falls Foundation with projects and campaigns. And their managing director, Peter Bennett, is chairman of trustees.

The supporter scheme is open to any organisation that's keen to save lives by stopping falls and can commit to an annual donation to help the charity carry out this work. Packages start at £450 a year.

PASMA addresses APPG on digital tech

PASMA's Jason Carlton addressed the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) at the Working at Height October meeting on how digital technology can help prevent falls. He explained how training delegates are using PASMA TowerGame to practise assembling towers on their computers before doing it for real.



He also talked about two upcoming advances - a virtual reality fault finding tool that lets managers experience risky tower situations without exposing them to danger, and a new tower inspection system currently being piloted.

The APPG aims to understand the root causes of falls from height and to propose effective, sensible measures to ensure more employees go home safely. Meetings are attended by members of Parliament, peers, industry leaders, trade associations, and contractors.

PASMA attends Health & Safety Event

PASMA's Chris Smith met members and safety professionals at the Health & Safety Event at the NEC Birmingham in September. In PASMA's first face to face event since March 2020, PASMA also took part in a 90 minute Knowledge Exchange seminar on the importance of choosing the right equipment for work at height.



Towers standards

The transition to EN 1004-1:2020 ends on 30 November 2021, when the old version of the standard for mobile access towers will be withdrawn. There is no need to get rid of towers that are compliant with EN 1004:2004 as long as they're still in good working condition. However, next time you are in the market for a new tower, make sure it is certified to the new standard.

The changes don't stop there, EN 1004 Part 1 will soon be followed by a new standard, EN 1004 Part 2, which covers instruction manuals for mobile access towers. The current standard for instruction manuals, EN 1298, will be withdrawn.



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