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IPAF mastclimber and hoist for Managers course

IPAF has launched a new one day course aimed at those managing, planning or commissioning the use of Mast Climbing Work Platforms or Construction Hoists. The new course is designed to mirror the existing MEWPs for Managers course and includes eLearning, classroom based, or instructor led remote learning via IPAF approved Training Centres.

IPAF training manager Paul Roddis said: "Candidates will learn the differences between categories, limitations and advantages of each, and how to select a suitable supplier. The course also covers how to manage installation, use, maintenance, training, inspection, thorough examination, and dismantling of mastclimbers and hoists, safely and effectively.

"It is initially available in English, in an instructor led format. IPAF intends to continue to develop this course into eLearning and to add other languages once the initial roll-out is complete. This new course fills an acknowledged gap in industry training. Last year, despite a slow start owing to the pandemic, IPAF certified more training candidates than ever before, adding new courses will continue to complement IPAF's market leading, ISO accredited training offer.

IPAF's representative for mastclimbers and related products Ángel Ibáñez added: "This new training option for those planning and managing mast climbers and hoist operations has been developed with the assistance of external partners, including many of our dedicated mastclimber and hoist members.

"It's a common misconception that planning, operating and overseeing the use of mastclimber and hoists is a simple, even fool proof process, where nothing much can go wrong once the machines are erected. However, our experienced specialist equipment rental and manufacturer members will tell you this couldn't be further from the truth!

"Untrained and inexperienced operators and supervisors increase the risk of unsafe operations, which in turn lead to accidents on site and damage being caused to rented machines, which is costly to rectify and can cause significant delays to work projects as repairs are effected or new machines brought into place.

HMRC/IPAF FAQs on end to red diesel

IPAF has secured additional guidance for the powered access industry on the ending to the rebate on red diesel for construction equipment, in the form of a Frequently Asked Question sheet prepared by HM Revenue & Customs to supplement its existing guidance on the end to red diesel on 1st April.

IPAF's UK & Ireland general manager Richard Whiting said: "Our members expressed multiple concerns around the negative consequences of this change, from increasing costs to end users and stifling green investment, to confusion over renting machines between different sectors and creating a £100 million black market in white diesel. Many members felt the guidance issued last year was not specific enough, so we requested a presentation from HMRC to our Country Council. We are grateful to the HMRC officials for attending and putting the questions and answers into a handy document that we are pleased to now share."

"The answers to the questions our members raised provide welcome clarification on a number of areas that weren't explicitly covered in the previously published guidance. However, IPAF reminds members that this industry specific FAQ sheet is purely supplementary to the legislation and HMRC's own guidance. IPAF urges UK members to familiarise themselves fully with the upcoming changes to the law, and the guidance."

See: www.ipaf.org/en-gb/end-red-diesel-rebate-april-2022-faqs



IPAF Rental+ aligned with Common Assessment Standard

IPAF has incorporated elements of Build UK's Common Assessment Standard as part of its Rental+ audit scheme, joining 20 organisations now using the Common Assessment Standard prequalification system.

Build UK reviews the standard every year to ensure that it continues to meet the pre-qualification requirements of the construction industry, Version 3.0 will be published on 31 March.

Chief executive Peter Douglas said: "This alignment means that those IPAF members certified to the Common Assessment Standard will reduce duplication when completing their annual IPAF Rental+ audit. All our other members going through the rigorous IPAF Rental+ audit process will have been assessed to the industry standard, giving contractors that hire equipment and services from our rental members the assurance that they are committed to the highest standards of professionalism and safety. This will mutually benefit our members and the many projects that require the Common Assessment Standard for contractors and operators on site."

For more information on Pre-Qualification and the Common Assessment Standard see: BuildUK.org/Pre-Qualification or www.ipaf.org/Rental

