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# STANDARD FOR LOW-HEIGHT TOWERS

The first draft has been completed of a new European standard for low-height mobile working platforms covering platforms with a maximum height of two metres. The new standard will ensure that minimum safety requirements are in place specifically for products not currently covered by existing standards making it simpler for anyone buying or hiring one to ensure it is safe and reliable.

The standard is being created by a Technical Committee 53 - Working Group 4, within the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN). Membership comprises a team of tower experts convened by PASMA technical director Don Aers. The draft is currently subject to an internal enquiry period, after which revisions may be required. It is not expected to be published until late 2024 at the earliest.



# INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION

PASMA members represent the whole of the tower industry from manufacturers and rental companies to training centres and instructors. They all have one thing in common, a commitment to prioritise safety above all else. Members have the opportunity to help shape the association's projects and direction by joining one of its committees, where they can discuss big tower safety challenges and opportunities.

## TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Training Committee has input into PASMA's industry leading tower training and leads the way on course development. Steve Booker of Kentec Training is its new chairman, taking over from Gillian Rutter of Skyward Training. He is supported by vice chairman Tony Warren of Sunbelt. The committee's first meeting of 2023 was held in January - the main topic was planning course development for the year ahead. Four new members were welcomed:

- Debbie Forbes - HSS
- Paul Hennessey - Adapt Training
- Bobby Creed - Nationwide Platforms
- Richard Mands - Speedy



PASMA Training Committee

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The PASMA Technical Committee is made up of leading tower manufacturers. Charlie Wright of Lakeside Industries is the new chairman taking over from Chris Bowman of Euro Towers. Wright chaired his first meeting in December, when the group discussed the development of the new European standard for low-height mobile working platforms.



PASMA Technical Committee

## HIRE & ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

The Hire & Assembly Committee is a service that provides rental, consultation, specification, design, assembly and dismantling of access towers including complex, bespoke structures. Paul Hackett of Generation is its new chairman, taking over from Pete Harley of STS Access. Hackett chaired his first meeting in January, with a focus on how PASMA TowerSure can benefit the sector.



Paul Hackett

## HIRER/DEALER COMMITTEE

PASMA's newest committee was formed last year to shape the direction of the tower rental and sales sector. The first meeting took place in September with Martin Doran of Astley Hire nominated as chairman.



PASMA Hirer/Dealer Committee

# EASY ACCESS TO SCAFFOLD TOWER INSTRUCTION MANUALS

PASMA has a digital library of more than 70 scaffold tower instruction manuals and assembly guides from PASMA Manufacturing Members. The library is divided by tower type and manufacturer with instructions for:

- Mobile access towers
- Cantilever towers
- Towers with bridges
- Towers on stairways
- Linked towers
- Large deck towers
- Low level work platforms

PASMA recommends that anyone assembling a tower or low level platform follows the instruction manual. No manual should mean no tower.

Visit: [pasma.co.uk/manuals](https://pasma.co.uk/manuals)



# USE OF TOWERS IN EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES

PASMA has issued new guidance clarifying that aluminium mobile towers should not be used in any area where explosive atmospheres exist or may exist. However, GRP - fibre glass - mobile towers may be a suitable alternative while working in such areas.

Explosive atmospheres are defined and regulated by the ATEX Directives throughout Europe, along with DSEAR (Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations) in the UK. Similar legislation exists in other regions.

When an impact occurs between an aluminium tower and rusty (oxidised) iron or steel components or equipment, it can generate sufficient energy to initiate a thermite reaction resulting in sparking which can ignite any flammable gas, vapour or dust that might be present.



# QUIZ: HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TOWERS?

If you've worked with or around towers, you have probably learned a thing or two about their capabilities and how to use them safely. Put your knowledge to the test by taking PASMA's three part multiple choice quiz, 'How much do you really know about scaffold towers?'. It's just for fun but you'll pick up some tower safety tips along the way. Start off at beginner level and see if you can reach 'Tower Nerd' status.

Take the quiz at: [pasma.co.uk/scaffold-towers/test-your-tower-knowledge](https://pasma.co.uk/scaffold-towers/test-your-tower-knowledge)

