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Shouting

What? IPAF AGM and Luncheon.
When? Thursday 22 April, 2004.
Where? London Heathrow Marriott Hotel.

AGM: 8:30 am
Access Summit: 10:00 am
Luncheon: 1:15 for 1:30 pm

Among the focal issues at next month's International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) AGM and Luncheon will be 'temporary work at height'. C&A looks ahead as the Federation gears up for its 2004 event.

ONCE AGAIN forming the backbone of IPAF's annual access industry showdown taking place next month will be the popular Access Summit, which the Federation says will this year address the growing impact of legislation and its effect on how people all around the world work at height. The theme is one of major focus for Tim Whiteman, who has so far during his opening season as IPAF's new managing director frequently stressed the major implications that new legislation holds for the platform industry and its users.

"The significant changes that are about to take place will bring both challenges and opportunities, especially in Europe, but also elsewhere," says Whiteman. "National legislation reflecting the *Temporary Work at Height Amending Directive (2001/45/EC)* is going to take effect in all member states over the next two years."



IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman has stressed the growing impact of legislation and its effect on how people all around the world work at height.

Britain's Health and Safety Commission (HSC) has estimated (Regulatory Impact Assessment – Annexe C to the Proposals for Work at Height Regulations) that the new regulations will see between 45,000 to 70,000 workers move away from using ladders to other forms of access. The challenge will be for them find the most suitable alternative, which provides an opportunity for the platform industry to help ensure they get the right equipment and that they are properly trained to use it safely and productively. And it is this major change in the regulatory climate for those working at height, which is the motivating factor behind Tim Whiteman's decision to make it the focus of this year's Access Summit.

FREE-FOR-ALL

IPAF's commitment to this topic has also fuelled its own decision to open the doors, free-of-charge, to this year's Summit to anyone with an interest in the access business, so that as well as those within the industry, those who use its products or services can come and hear the authoritative views of speakers who are actively involved in framing the legislation and interpreting its implications.

Anyone interested in access is welcome to attend the Access Summit free of charge, which begins at 10.00 am on the day. Everyone – IPAF members, their guests or other non-members must, however, reserve their places before 15 April. (*Details on page 41*)

With Britain's draft Work at Height Regulations (WAHR) out for industry consultation until April 2, of considerable interest at the Summit will be the examination of the broad implications of new legislation as well as the practical details.

THE AGM

Tim Whiteman will take the opening stage at this year's AGM, which starts at the usual time of 8.30 am. It will be the first under the

from the Summit

chairmanship of Whiteman, who will set out the ambitious international expansion plans already underway and report on progress.

The 2004 event will also be the year that IPAF's current president Peter Bennett steps down from the post to be succeeded by Haulotte managing director, Pierre Saubot. IPAF will not forget Bennett's hard work over a great many years on numerous committees as well as under his role as president. His energy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed and best wishes go with him for success in the future.

LUNCH WITH SIR BOBBY



Sir Bobby Charlton.

As happens every year, all sectors of the access industry and its customers will once again be brought together at this year's Luncheon, which follows directly on from the Access Summit. It presents the perfect opportunity to mix business with pleasure and also a chance to maintain that important relationship with industry colleagues. It also provides the perfect opportunity to invite key customers to give them additional insight into what the access industry has to offer.

This year, IPAF is delighted to welcome Sir Bobby Charlton as its guest speaker. Dubbed "Sir Football" by many, his unrivalled reputation is typified by the story that, following England's 1966 World Cup win, there were football fans all around the world who knew only two English words. One was 'Charlton' – the other 'Bobby'.

Spreading the word



Among the Summit's speakers this year will be head of the British Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Falls from Height Team, **IAN GREENWOOD**, whose remit takes in HSE's priority activities targeted at reducing the number of fatalities and major

injuries caused by falls from height across all industries. Greenwood is currently responsible for analysing the responses to the draft Work at Height Regulation consultation that ends on April 2. At the Summit he will explain the background to the proposals and look to draw out some of the issues to be addressed in implementing the new regulations. ■



PAUL ADORIAN returns to the Summit for the first time this year as managing director of EC Notified Body, Powered Access Certification Ltd. On his agenda will be the examination of the details of the draft regulations

from the standpoint of the access industry and its users, and the practical aspects that he believes will benefit from change. ■



Representing the London Fire Brigade, **NEIL FEBEN**, divisional commander, brigade head of safety and responsible for the brigade's WAHR, will be looking at the implications of the new regulations in the context of the demanding conditions under which firefighters work at height. ■



Outlining the situation in Germany will be Zoom Deutschland managing director, **Fred Ostermeyer** who will also be spelling out what the new legislation is likely

to mean for the development of platform operator training in his own country. ■



DENNY ECKSTINE, executive vice president of AWPT Inc (Aerial Work Platform Training Inc), the IPAF subsidiary established to promote and deliver operator training

throughout North America, makes the trip from the other side of the Atlantic to focus on the legislative and regulatory requirements in North America and their safety and training implications. Eckstine worked closely with IPAF to introduce its training into North America. ■

INDUSTRY VOICE

With the Work at Height Regulations (WAHR) to be introduced in Britain set to have a huge impact on all those who work at height, the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) has been seeking views from industry, unions and workers. The four-month consultation period was launched in December, 2003 with a consultation document setting out the proposed new regulations and guidance to improve the planning, organising and management of work at height. The HSC has set a 2 April closing date for comments, after which time the regulations will be revised. It is expected that the final proposals will be put to ministers later this year. Copies of the proposals are available on the HSE's website at: www.hse.gov.uk/consult/live.htm.

Speaking at last year's Summit, the HSC's Bill Callaghan brought to light the important point that improvements in safety rely on the co-operation of everyone in industry to take responsibility for safety and that members should not simply hand it to someone else.

In relation to the new regulations, he has since also stressed the vital importance of comment from industry: "We have already consulted widely with industry in drafting these regulations in an effort to get them right," Callaghan says. "But if there are any outstanding issues or concerns about the proposed regulations and guidance, now is the time to tell us."



The HSC's Bill Callaghan has stressed that improvements in safety rely on the co-operation of everyone in industry to take responsibility.

One view of the practical detail of the new regulations will come from Paul Adorian, and anyone who has heard him repeatedly argue for improved safety legislation and tougher enforcement will be in no doubt that he stands squarely behind moves that will improve safety. They will also know that he has a keen analytical eye for detail and so will be far from surprised to hear him voice some constructive criticism and practical suggestions at this year's Summit.

On taking over Powered Access Certification (PAC) Ltd from IPAF, one of Adorian's objectives for the company was to work to make European legislation more comprehensible to those at whom it is directed. That is precisely where he stands on his constructive critique of the draft Work at Height Regulations.

Ian Greenwood, who will be one of four other speakers sharing the Access Summit platform with Adorian, is directly involved in analysing the responses to the draft regulations and it is his complex task to take into account the many doubtless, diverging suggestions that will have been received from industry, trade unions and individual workers. In addition to drawing together the background to the new regulations, Greenwood's views on the many issues to be addressed in order to get the balance of the regulations right, and the approach to implementing them, will be of key importance to everyone.

TOUGHER ENFORCEMENT

Legislation is one side of the regulatory coin, but without the other - enforcement - it really amounts to little. There are strong political pressures around the world to reduce workplace deaths and injuries, and global statistics have identified falls from height as a prime target. The 'Don't Fall For It' campaign launched last year in Britain was part of a Europe-wide initiative to reduce death and injury resulting from falls from height, and was aimed squarely at the construction industry. The initiative was the first of its kind organised by the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC).

Kevin Myers, chief inspector of Construction for Great Britain's Health and Safety Executive (HSE), who sits on the SLIC construction Working Group, described support for the campaign by all EU Member States as "a very positive example of co-operation". It provides mounting evidence of an increasing determination to cut down on the 1,300 construction industry deaths throughout Europe. However, while the British campaign pulled no punches, including hard hitting advertising and two construction site inspection 'blitzes', it confirmed that far too many contractors are still neglecting safety issues for the protection of their workers who work at height.

The first site inspection blitz last summer found that on over one third of almost 1500 sites visited by HSE inspectors where work at height was taking place or planned, the risk of falling was not being properly managed. The second round of the inspections, in September, again highlighted that far too many firms, especially smaller ones, were simply not taking safety seriously enough. The situation brought a condemnation of the construction industry for its failure to raise the standards of work at height from Myers. Reminding of the number of construction workers killed by falls from height, the largest killer, he stressed that: "Given that most falls from height accidents are preventable, there is no excuse for not ensuring that all work

being carried out at height is done safely. What inspectors found during the second blitz of the 'Don't Fall For It' campaign suggests that a large section of the industry is not improving itself, as it claims. Many in the industry are deliberately cutting corners, paying lip service to safety and risking the lives of their workers."

HARNESSING COMMERCIAL PRESSURE

Highlighting the commercial pressure for improved safety at height is a key question that the 'Don't Fall For It' campaign posed: *Are co-ordination obligations being properly met, and is health and safety taken into consideration during the selection of contractors and subcontractors?*

This is especially relevant in signalling a determination to harness the 'trickle down' commercial pressure for improved safety at height expected to be exerted by principal contractors. Principal contractors are being pushed to help police safety. It makes good commercial sense for them to do so and keep accidents off their sites.

It would be too easy to focus on the downside, however. There are always going to be those who will cut safety corners because they think it adds to their profit. Yet the positive side is encouraging. Governments are putting pressure to bare and committing resources to step-up enforcement action, as well as to provide guidance for those who are making genuine mistakes. Even more importantly, industry is recognising that accidents cost them money and are becoming increasingly receptive to government pressure to help police safety and training requirements.



While the British 'Don't Fall For It' campaign included hard hitting advertising and two construction site inspection 'blitzes', it also confirmed that far too many contractors are still neglecting safety issues for the protection of their workers who work at height.



Places for this year's Access Summit must be pre-booked, by Thursday 15 April. Tickets for the IPAF AGM and Luncheon at the London Heathrow Marriott Hotel on Thursday 22 April, 2004 are available at £49.95 (plus £8.74 VAT totalling £58.69 where applicable) from Jean Harrison at IPAF.
 Tel: 015395 62444 Fax: 015395 64686 e-mail: jean.harrison@ipaf.org. Website: www.ipaf.org.



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