

Irish National Safety & Health at Work Exhibition

C&A

PASMA focus

In support of its members in Ireland, PASMA will be exhibiting at the seventh National Safety & Health at Work Exhibition at the RDS, Dublin, on 22-23 October 2008. It will join over 100 exhibitors and promote safety, best practice and training in the mobile access tower sector in Ireland.

PASMA managing director, Peter Bennett said: "PASMA is keen to raise awareness and understanding of its role in this important market and the exhibition will provide the ideal opportunity to reach safety professionals from a variety of industry backgrounds."

PASMA members in Ireland currently include:

Access Consultancy & Training
Highway Plant
HSS Hire Service Group
Instant UpRight
National Safety Centre
Ridgeway Training Centre
Work at Height Training

Top Shop

www.pasma.co.uk is a top shop for safety-related guides, posters, pocketcards and DVD's connected with mobile access towers and safe working at height.

Recent additions to the range include the new tower inspection pocketcard and associated poster that give specific advice on how to inspect a mobile access tower and record the details of that inspection in accordance with the Work at Height Regulations.

Also available are a series of guidance notes covering various aspects of working with towers.



Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Anyone successfully completing PASMA CPD activity now receives an official certificate. According to PASMA managing director, Peter Bennett, CPD is now an integral part of the way the association ensures its members and trainers are kept abreast of the latest legislation, trends and developments in the fast moving access sector. "It is essential to maintaining professional standards and the integrity of the association's various training programmes," he says.



Low level access training



PASMA training for this increasingly popular form of access is now available from PASMA approved training centres throughout the UK and Ireland. Successful completion of the course results in delegates receiving the familiar PASMA photocard and official training certificate.

For details of those centres delivering low level access training, please go to www.pasma.co.uk

More lead instructors needed

As PASMA continues to raise the standard for novice training instructors via the implementation of the mentoring scheme, the existing team of 12 regional lead instructors is working to full capacity to keep pace with the flow of novice instructors coming through the instructor training programme. To meet this increasing demand, PASMA is looking to appoint further lead instructors/mentors in specific locations. Accordingly, applications are invited from suitably qualified instructors in Ireland, London and the Midlands. For more details go to www.pasma.co.uk



Access in Action

Don't Fall For It!

The two approved methods of assembling and dismantling towers agreed by PASMA in co-operation with the Health & Safety Executive are referred to as the 3T or Through the Trap method and the Advance Guardrail method. Both involve the use of additional components over and above the minimum required by the product standard to allow users to position guardrails ahead of themselves, so that by the time they come to stand on the platform, collective fall prevention measures are already in place.

The two methods are shown in a DVD produced by PASMA, in co-operation with the HSE, aptly entitled "Don't Fall For It!" and are illustrated in the HSE Information Sheet, CIS 10, both of which can be obtained from the association's website, www.pasma.co.uk

This is in stark contrast to the previously accepted methods of assembling and dismantling towers which saw users standing on unprotected platforms throughout the assembly process and precariously at risk of falling during the tower erection process.

Top tips

Assuming you have done your risk assessment and selected a tower as the most appropriate equipment for the job and, of course, your operatives are competent to work at height, there are three things you should do:

1. Because this is going to be a 'live' site where equipment and tools are being handed up and down and therefore there is a risk, however small, that something could fall, you should set up a danger or exclusion zone around the towers using physical barriers to keep unsuspecting passers-by out of harm's way.
2. Have a copy of the manufacturers' instruction manual to hand. All reputable suppliers will provide a copy of this when the equipment is delivered. If you do not have a copy, the latest editions of all PASMA manufacturers' instruction manuals are available as downloads from www.pasma.co.uk
3. Lay out all the components and make sure that you have all the parts that you need and that none of them are damaged. If they are, request a replacement from your supplier.

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