

Tim Whiteman targets international expansion



TIM WHITEMAN has spoken of the first few stages of his new campaign as IPAF managing director designate since taking up the post at the beginning of August.

"My first few weeks have convinced me that there are many, many

companies around the world and on both sides of the Atlantic that will be interested in the range of membership services and training that IPAF offers," he said.

"I still have a lot to learn about IPAF and the comprehensive range of services that we have to offer. One aspect that is already clear is the vital input that members make through committee meetings and task forces."

Ensuring that this contribution is used to its full potential, Whiteman will be visiting as many members as possible during the coming months.

SAIE Forum

Whiteman's first public appearance will be at SAIE in Bologna, Italy, in October, where he will be taking part in the forum, *Apparecchi di sollevamento e Formazione. Permessi di conduzione di piattaforme aeree: problema od opportunità?* (Lifting Equipment and Training. Operating Licence for Aerial Work Platforms: problem or opportunity?), organised jointly by IPAF and member ASCOMAC.

High on his agenda will be the impact of the implementation of EC/45/2001 – the Temporary work at Height Directive – to be introduced by requirement by all EC member states from July, 2004, and be fully operational within two years. "The European Union is making training compulsory throughout our industry and those industries that use our products," said Whiteman. "Companies need to act now to implement internationally recognised training schemes."

Reinforcing a commitment to improved safety for those who work at height, will be the participation of key figures at the Forum from the Italian health and safety authorities.

From Italy's ISPESL (Istituto Superiore per la Prevenzione e la Sicurezza del Lavoro) will be president Dr Antonio Moccaldi, who will give the welcome address alongside ASCOMAC's president Dr Ing Giovanni Bonvicini.

ISPESL plays a major role as a consulting organisation for the Italian Ministry of Welfare and in informing not only Italian but also European safety at work regulations and attitudes.

A presentation from Dr Ing Roberto Cianotti, director of the Safety Technologies Department at ISPESL, will look at the development of technical and regulatory factors in Europe influencing powered access equipment.

A representative from the General Directorate of Labour Relations at the Italian Ministry of Welfare will also discuss training and accident prevention. ■



Bad habits die hard

AN EXAMPLE certainly needs making of outlandishly dangerous practices such as this. It stood out to the leading industry figure who sent it in to IPAF with the comment, 'You'll love this one!' Unfortunately, far too many simply still cannot (or will not) recognise the inherent dangers. At the beginning of August, the most respected and avidly read UK farming publication not only showed a photograph of the dangerous and illegal use of a telescopic handler as a makeshift work platform, but clearly suggested that it was an innovative solution to the problem of trimming a tall holly hedge.

The arable farmer in question had proudly roped a one-tonne potato box to his telescopic handler and was hanging out – close to dangling – from the contraption at a height in excess of 6 metres, while wielding a particularly long power hedge trimmer.

Even Paul Adorian found the manifold infringements of regulations and the opportunities for death, or at least serious injury, rather too long to list comprehensively. However, in his letter to the publication in question, he made several key points, not least of which was that agriculture comes an unenviable close second to construction in the number of deaths and injuries caused by falls from height.

The Health and Safety Executive has already targeted the professional arboriculture industry with its report, 'Use and effectiveness of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) for tree work' (full story at www.Vertikal.net), recommending the wider use of MEWPs for work at height. Perhaps most revealing of the shape of things to come, in commending the report to his own industry, Billy Robb, who chairs the Arboriculture Specialist Group

of the Forestry Contracting Association, referred to "the likely effects of the new Work at Height Regulations in 2004." Agriculture, arboriculture, construction, broadcast media and the numerous other industries throughout Europe that involve work at height all need to take serious note – now! ■



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