

Show treble on for IPAF

SED 2003

IPAF WILL be making the most of three major exhibitions taking place over the next several weeks to further underline its assistance to the access industry. Profiting from the safe and productive use of powered access will remain a key theme.

At SED this month IPAF will be focusing largely on the commercial benefits of powered access for all those working at height. With site safety an increasingly important issue for the construction industry, visitors will be able to discuss ways of improving safety at height and how this can save direct costs and provide a competitive edge in tendering for contracts. IPAF can be found on Stand 308 Avenue O in the Cranes & Access village. ■

Intermat 2003

VISITORS TO next month's Intermat exhibition in Paris will be given the chance to discover more about IPAF's growing support for the industry throughout Europe. IPAF says that its membership of the Fédération Européenne de la Manutention (FEM), has already secured representation on the Working Group of Committee 98/37/EC, allowing IPAF to influence Directives relating to platform design, manufacture and use. The first official meeting of the MEWP Product Group, that IPAF runs for FEM, is scheduled to take place during the show.

European operator training development will be another key issue in Paris. Steadily, those EC member states that do have legislation requiring training, notably Spain and Portugal, are seeing a marked growth in interest in training.

Those countries which are yet to implement the requirements of PUWE (the EC Directive on Provision and Use of Work Equipment - 95/63/EC), will inevitably have to take action in the not too distant future. With a deadline of July 19, 2004 to translate the EC Temporary Work at Height Directive (2001/45/EC) into national legislation, changes in attitude cannot be far away. The Directive requires users of any equipment to access height – at whatever level – to be adequately trained. IPAF will be welcoming visitors onto its Stand no 6 D 005 at Intermat. ■

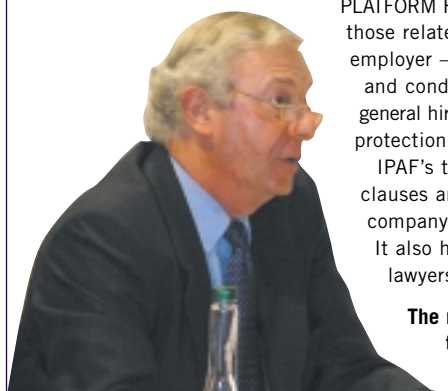
Safety & Health Expo 2003

IMMEDIATELY AFTER Intermat is the Safety & Health Expo 2003, to be held at Birmingham's NEC. The show is aimed at health and safety professionals and IPAF will be in the Access Pavilion, alongside other industry associations such as NASC, PASMA and SEAMA.

Peter Bennett, IPAF's new president from 15 April, sees it as crucial for the access industry to present a united front on safety for those working at height: "We have joined forces with other access associations to give visitors a comprehensive overview of what the whole industry has to offer in the improvement of safety and reduction of accidents, which in turn leads to cost savings, greater productivity and improved profitability," says Bennett. "Whereas in the past, safety was often ignored in the interests of profit, the two now go hand-in-hand and industry is receptive to this message." ■

New terms of hire for platforms

IPAF'S NEW 'Terms and Conditions of Hire' have been drafted specifically for the particular needs of its members in the rental industry. Currently available for use exclusively by IPAF members throughout England and Wales, it is soon to be extended to cover Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.



PLATFORM HIRE has some special considerations – especially those related to operator safety and the position of their employer – that are not covered by general plant hire terms and conditions. Inserting new clauses into an existing, general hire contract often compromises much of its protection, possibly established in legal precedent.

IPAF's terms and conditions encompass all these special clauses and are based on years of experience of its hire company members.

It also has the backing of thorough scrutiny by contract lawyers. ■

The new 'Terms and Conditions' were announced to a 200-strong gathering at IPAF's recent Access Summit, chaired by Paul Adorian.



Training in Portugal

The Portuguese health and safety authority, IDICT, is now enforcing its regulation 82/99, which requires the training of plant operators, initially on major, high-profile contracts such as the construction of 10 new stadiums for the 2004 European Football Championships. Rental company Euro Elevação, which is one of the two IPAF Approved Training Centres in Portugal, is currently training 250 platform operators who will carry out steel erection work on these projects for the country's major steelwork contractor Martifer. ■



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