

New MEWP product group

IPAF is to set up and run a new MEWP product group upon request from FEM (Fédération Européenne de la Manutention), the influential grouping of trade associations of which IPAF recently became a member. Reporting to the FEM General Assembly in Sweden, IPAF's Giles Councill said that, "at a meeting of manufacturers following the IPAF Board meeting in Maastricht, all thirteen expressed a keen interest in joining FEM and taking part in the product group".

IPAF is encouraging all European manufacturers or companies which supply the European market to join FEM through their own national association – in Britain, the British Materials Handling Federation.

IPAF assists simulator development

IPAF says it is developing a platform simulator with Aims Solutions, a spin-off from the University of Nottingham's School of Chemical, Environmental and Mining Engineering, in a bid to streamline operator training. IPAF is the first to admit that simulator training will never replace essential hands-on experience, but it does provide a useful tool to speed up the assessment of

new operators. Putting those with limited experience directly into real platforms demands higher levels of supervision from instructors and is a potential training bottleneck.

The development model is based on a JLG 600AJ platform (see pic) and will be complete in the next few weeks. Full information on simulator packages will be available later this year.

Available as a basic package, the simulator's design allows tailoring to suit a wide range of platform products and the detailed requirements of individual manufacturers or end users.



Access Summit

IPAF will be incorporating an Access Summit on the theme 'Marketing Safety is Profitable' into its 2003 AGM and Luncheon. Bill Callaghan, Chair of the Health and Safety Commission has already accepted the invitation to be the principal speaker at the Summit and will be joined by an influential international platform of speakers from other safety legislation bodies and the access industry itself.

The Summit will be held on Tuesday 15 April at the London Heathrow Marriott Hotel.

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