

# Continuing development of training

**T**he third, annual IPAF Professional Development Seminar drew a record attendance of 96 of its Instructors on 8th October. In the week before the European Week for Safety and Health, strongly promoted in the UK by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), it was appropriate that one of the workshop sessions was, as in previous years, presented by the HSE.

In his presentation, **CE** Training and Accidents,, Specialist Inspector (Engineering), David

Butterworth, looked at a number of issues arising out of accident investigations.

In addition to underlining the problems of stability when working or travelling over inadequate ground support ^ drains, soft or uneven surfaces ^ and failure to deploy stabilisers correctly, he included the importance of maintenance, machine design and the continual review of training courses.

Butterworth felt that the platform industry should take the opportunity to present its views upon the issue of working on or near highways.

The Health and Safety Commission and the Department of Environment and Transport have formed a specialist task group and published a discussion document requesting ideas on how to reduce the number of accidents among people involved in this area.

Reinforcing the theme of the continual development of IPAF training, Rupert Douglas-Jones, Training Scheme Manager, detailed the recently introduced online card application system now helping to

streamline the issue of PAL (Powered Access License) cards to the continually growing number of trained operators.

He also announced a feedback system, whereby individual instructors and training centres can discuss ideas and concerns with an IPAF Support Officer on an informal basis. Whilst centres already receive regular audit visits, this detailed examination of administrative and practical systems does not present the ideal opportunity to raise such issues.

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## Eleanor can help

**A**s CAP Course Co-ordinator, Eleanor Morrison is responsible for the smooth running of the Competent Assessed Persons (CAP) sessions run regularly by IPAF subsidiary Powered Access Certification Ltd. She handles initial enquiries, looks after the administration and ensures that successful candidates receive their CAP cards and certificates promptly.

Based at IPAF's Milnthorpe Training Administration Centre, she also handles enquiries about PAL card validity on the IPAF hotline. She is able to provide site managers and safety officers with additional details of cardholders that will help them check that a platform operator does indeed have valid PAL card.

"Lost and damaged cards do cause problems," she admits. "We are usually able to keep



**Eleanor Morrison, CAP Course Co-ordinator**

people working whenever this happens, but we do have very thorough security procedures to follow, so it really does make sense to guard your PAL card as closely as your credit card".

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