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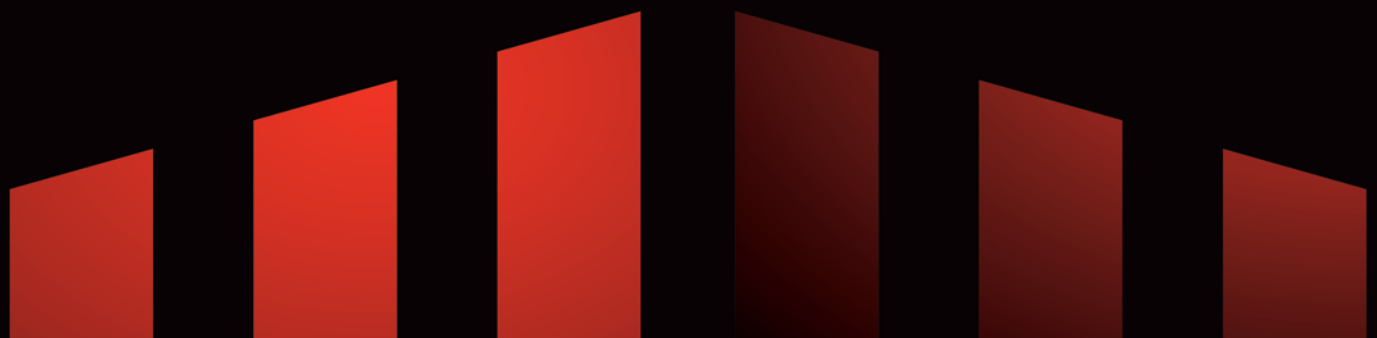
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# Tower of Strength

An increasing number of owners and operators are coming to recognise the practical contribution that access towers can make to both productivity and safety, not just in construction but also in facilities management and routine maintenance generally. PASMA is helping to shape the future of the industry through the expert and dedicated involvement of its various members which now fall into four distinct categories

The categories are:

1. Manufacturing members [voting]



PASMA members will shortly receive a 'self-audit' form in order to determine which category(s) of membership they fall into and therefore which logo they will be entitled to use.

2. Hirer/Dealer members [voting]

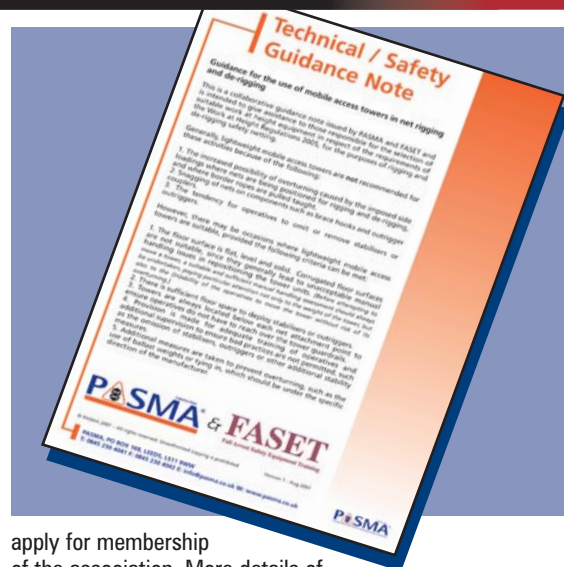


Subject to being able to satisfy certain criteria, any company or organisation committed to the promotion of safety, best practice and the raising of industry standards is welcome to

3. Training members [voting]



4. Associate members [non-voting]



apply for membership of the association. More details of this can be found on the Pasma website, [www.pasma.co.uk](http://www.pasma.co.uk), there is also a link from Vertical.net.

## HSG33 Working on Roofs Guidance

In November the association was delighted to accept an invitation from the Health & Safety Executive to attend a breakfast event introducing the new HSG33 Working on Roofs Guidance scheduled for launch during the first quarter of 2008. Held at the Bamsley Metrodome and organised by HSE Construction Sheffield, more than 100 roofing contractors listened to a series of presentations outlining the changes.

These mainly concern:

- Fragile surfaces • Training and competence • Planning for safety
- CDM • Work at height hierarchy • Weather conditions • Safe landing

All PASMA members are advised to obtain a copy of the new HSG33 guidance when it becomes available early next year.

## CDM Regulations

The new Construction Design and Management Regulations 2007, better known by the acronym CDM, revise and bring together the CDM Regulations 1994 and the Construction [Health, Safety and Welfare] Regulations 1996 into a single regulatory package reducing their complexity and bureaucracy whilst maintaining and reinforcing the underlying health and safety objectives. CDM 2007 places legal duties on virtually everyone in construction work considered to be a 'Duty holder'.

**CDM is designed to:**

- Improve health and safety in the construction sector
- Have the right people for the right job at the right time to manage risks on site
- Focus on effective planning and managing risk

It is important that PASMA members know and understand the implications of these new regulations. For more details please visit [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm.htm)

## Meets Work at Height requirements

The Work at Height Regulations require that mobile access towers are inspected regularly by a competent person and that a report of that inspection is provided within 24 hours to the person for whom the inspection was carried out.

PASMA has agreed with the HSE that completion of a PASMA Tower Inspection Record by a competent PASMA-trained operative and affixing it to the tower satisfies these requirements without further documentation.

## Continuing Professional Development

A sub-committee consisting of Mick Aston, Barry Thompson and Jason Woods has been formed to consider and submit proposals for a Continuing Professional Development [CPD] programme for PASMA instructors.

## Technical Tip The use of mobile access towers in safety net rigging and de-rigging

Generally, lightweight mobile access towers are not recommended for the installation and removal of safety netting for the following reasons:

1. The increased possibility of overturning through side loadings from pulling on nets
  2. Snagging of nets on components such as brace hooks and outrigger couplers
  3. The tendency for operatives to omit or remove stabilisers or outriggers
- However, there may be occasions where mobile access towers are suitable, provided the following criteria can be met:

1. The floor surface is flat, level and solid
2. There is sufficient floor space to deploy stabilisers and outriggers
3. Towers are always located below each net attachment point
4. Provision is made for the adequate training and supervision of operatives
5. Additional measures are taken, such as counter-weighting, to prevent overturning

For more detailed guidance and advice, please see the collaborative guidance note produced by PASMA and FASET [Fall Arrest Safety Equipment Training]. Copies are available from [www.pasma.co.uk](http://www.pasma.co.uk)

## New "Action check list" Pocket Card and Poster

Work is now well advanced on the production of an 'Action Checklist' for mobile access towers in the form of a new Pocket Card intended to be used in conjunction with PASMA's Tower Inspection Record, as a reference checklist for the inspection of towers. The Pocket Card layout will subsequently be converted into the second of a series of PASMA posters.



The proper use of the PASMA inspection records satisfies Work at height regulations

## New Members

The following organisations have recently joined the association:

**New Associate members :-** Allsure Ltd, Carillion Irishenco, Outreach Ltd, ASTRA Access Safety Training, Light Hire Ltd.

**New Training members :-** Scottish Access Services, Mark One Hire Ltd, J & J Enright Co Ltd, Access Brands Ltd, Optimum Drywall Systems Ltd Veitchi (Holdings) Ltd.

**New Hire/Dealer members :-** Mark One Hire Ltd, Finest Scaffolding & Access Ltd, Toga Plant Hire Ltd, UK Access Solutions.

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