



## **IPAF** calculates injury rate

IPAF has issued an update to its fatal injury rate calculation using the latest available data. As one might expect, it confirms that aerial work platforms are one of the safest ways to work at height. The new data includes IPAF's accident data released for 2014, which indicates that, although the total access rental fleet has increased in size, the fatal injury rate has fallen.

Based on the estimated rental fleet size, the average utilisation rate and the average days worked per year, the number of rental days in 2013 was estimated at 168.4 million worldwide. When cross referenced with the 68 fatal accidents reported to IPAF that year, the federation has calculated the fatality rate at 0.040 per 100,000 days. In 2014, although the number of rented machines operated increased to 182.4 million, the number of fatalities fell to 64, providing a fatal injury rate of 0.035.

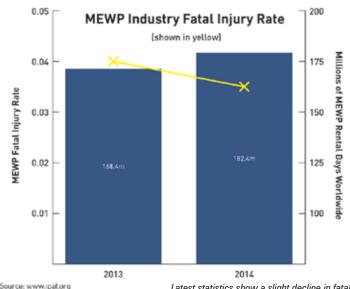
IPAF technical & safety executive Chris Wraith said: "Comparing fatalities across the whole industry with the total fleet size will most probably bring down the fatal injury rate, so IPAF is currently taking a more conservative approach to the question, how safe are aerial work platforms, and this is an initial attempt to measure and quantify their safety."

Comparison of IPAF's fatal injury rate with other working at height fatalities published in France, Singapore, the UK and the US, also revealed that aerial work platforms were the safest way to work at height. In the US for example, the fatal aerial work platform injury rate per 100,000 was 0.03, while falls from height for equipment other than aerial work platforms was 0.4 per 100,000. Overall in the US, the fatal injury rate per 100,000 due to fatalities of any kind at work was 3.27. IPAF's fatal injury rate was also reviewed against other relevant industry sectors, however, the research found little commonality between industries in the way that fatalities are reported or tracked.

## Caa IPAF focus

## **IPAF's accident project**

Launched in 2012, IPAF's accident reporting project is gradually creating a comprehensive record of known accidents. Newly released figures show that 64 fatalities involving an aerial work platform were reported to the federation in 2014, while the rental market reports also estimate the worldwide access rental fleet at more than 1.1 million.



Latest statistics show a slight decline in fatal aerial work platform related incidents.

The 2014 accident figures show a small decrease from those recorded in 2013, which have been re-adjusted upwards in the light of new information to show 68 fatalities involving an aerial work platform in 2013. This gives a fatal injury rate of 0.035 in 2014 compared to 0.040 in 2013. Analysis of the 2014 data also reveals that falls from height and

The accident data gathered enables IPAF to improve the content of

overturns remain the two main

causes of fatal accidents.

training programmes, to develop technical guidance, to target specific high-risk professions or activities, and to provide research findings used to influence standards.

All manufacturers, rental companies, contractors and users are encouraged to report all worldwide accidents - not just fatal and serious ones - at: www.ipaf. org/accident. This information will then be used to make the powered access industry even safer than it is today.

## Securing the future

IPAF's access rental conference Europlatform will be held on 7th October at the Copenhagen Admiral Hotel in Copenhagen, Denmark.



With the theme 'Securing the Future', confirmed speakers include Kiloutou chief executive Xavier du Boys, Dinolift managing director Petri Paavolainen and Søren Olesen of Danilift who will provide a talk on the truck mounted market in the Nordic region. Other speakers are: Karel Huijser, general manager and VP EAME, JLG; Nick Selley, group

business development director, AFI: and Dino Leistenschneider. executive VP - Sourcing and Fleet Management, Ramirent.

The conference will be preceded by an evening networking reception at the Carlsberg museum on 6th October. For more details on the event, the venue or to register, visit: www.europlatform.info

Note: Following the tragic death of two men using a crane suspended man basket in Limerick, Ireland last month, it is worth reminding of IPAF guidance on the use of personal fall protection equipment -Critically anyone working from a mobile platform over water should not wear a harness and attached lanyard - unless specific risk assessment suggests otherwise. A full guide of when and when not to use personal fall protection equipment can be found on the IPAF website: www.ipaf.org/en/publications/personal-fall-protection/