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# New tool to verify PAL Cards online

Site and safety managers can now use the PAL Card online verification tool at [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org) to check if a card is genuine. A valid PAL Card (Powered Access Licence) issued by IPAF is proof that the cardholder has been trained to operate powered access equipment safely and effectively.

IPAF has launched the online verification tool in response to requests from site and safety managers for a quick and easy way to check if a card presented to them is genuine. The yellow, plastic PAL Card already contains several security features. The front carries



IPAF issued 85,605 PAL Cards through its approved training centres in 2010, 9% up on the 78,210 cards issued in 2009.

to minimise counterfeiting risks, and the cardholder's signature.

"PAL Cards are valuable because on most job sites, operators without a valid card will not be allowed to operate powered access equipment, and there have been a small handful of cases involving forged PAL Cards," says Tim Whiteman, IPAF managing director. "The online verification tool gives site and safety managers added security and confidence in the system."



Is that card genuine? Site managers can double-check using the online tool.

the cardholder's name and photograph. It also shows the expiry date and the machine categories the cardholder has been trained to operate. The reverse side features an IPAF logo printed as a hologram

## Credit check service

Need to check if a company you are dealing with is creditworthy? IPAF members can obtain Creditsafe's Plus Package at a discounted price. The service offers company reports with information such as credit rating, credit limit,

incorporation date and directors/shareholders. Request a demonstration and free company credit report by visiting the Services/Member Benefits section of [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org)

## Scissor lift stability and guarding

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is starting a project in Northern Ireland to look into whether CE-marked scissor lifts currently comply with EN280, the European standard governing the design and manufacture of MEWPs, and the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC.

The project was agreed by the CEN Machinery ADKO Committee in 2009 and will involve four countries: Cyprus, Ireland, Poland and the UK. The HSE will visit a number of dealerships or manufacturers in the UK with a view to completing a survey document that will be sent out in advance. The visit may also entail some functional testing.

The survey will look at a range of makes and models and will focus on whether the lift is fitted with safety devices as stipulated in EN280 which monitor/control components that affect the stability of the machine. The survey will also look at some guarding issues. It is envisaged that the project will finish in March.

IPAF welcomes this initiative and asks its members to assist in any way they can. IPAF members with questions on this project can contact the IPAF Technical Officer.



Some of the IAPA 2011 judges at work (left to right): Mike Watts of US-based Sunstate Equipment, Roger Bowden of UK-based Niftylift, Steve Shaughnessy, IPAF president, and Gerhard Hillebrand, IPAF-Italia representative.

## Shortlists announced for the IAPAs

The finalists for the International Awards for Powered Access (IAPAs) 2011 have been announced following the meeting of the judging panel in London on 28 January. The full list can be viewed at [www.iapa-summit.info](http://www.iapa-summit.info).

More than 100 entries were received, the highest number since the first awards in 2009. The winners will be announced at the IAPA awards dinner following the IPAF Summit on 14 April at the Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Tickets can be booked in advance at [www.iapa-summit.info](http://www.iapa-summit.info).



## Gil Male is retiring

IPAF's Technical Officer, Gil Male, is retiring at the end of March. The next meeting of the IPAF Manufacturers' Technical Committee (on 23 March at Conexpo in Las Vegas) will be one of his last duties.

"I am sure many in the industry will join me in thanking Gil for the superb job he has done of supporting and working with the IPAF Manufacturers' Technical Committee," said IPAF managing director Tim Whiteman. "The work he has done in technical committees around the world has had a positive and lasting impact on the standards and regulations that govern this industry, and he will be a hard act to follow."

IPAF is looking for a successor to carry on the work of the Technical Officer and is also looking for a Marketing and Member Recruitment Manager. Details have been posted at [www.ipaf.org/jobs](http://www.ipaf.org/jobs)



Gil Male's work on standards and regulations leaves a lasting impact on the powered access industry, seen here speaking at an IPAF seminar.



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