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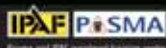
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PASMA completes Fall Protection Review

PASMA, the industry body for the mobile access tower sector, in collaboration with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has completed a wide-ranging review of its recommended best practice for the avoidance of falls from height from mobile access towers.

The review process, which has taken 16 months to complete, was commissioned by PASMA as a measured, impartial and prudent exercise five years after its first guidance was issued and in response to representations from manufacturers in support of a new generation of Integral Advance Guard Rails (AGR).

It set out to examine the comparative technical, operational and safety aspects of the Through The Trap (3T) and AGR methods for assembling, altering and dismantling mobile access towers. A daunting task which involved soliciting input from stakeholders to identify issues to be investigated, the production of an interim report detailing these issues, practical technical workshops and a training workshop to examine the issues in detail, the commissioning of independent, expert research by Health & Safety Laboratories to examine some specific ergonomic questions and latterly the issue of a briefing report as part of a consultation exercise to wider industry.

The twenty page final report concludes that when used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions and guidance, both methods continue to provide an acceptable safe method of work, with AGR systems providing comprehensive fall protection and the 3T method using conventional components to minimise the risk of fall.

There are a number of other observations and recommendations, particularly in respect of enhanced coverage of AGR in the practical element of PASMA training, which can be viewed in full in the final report, which is awaiting a foreword from the HSE, and will be available to download from the PASMA website, www.pasma.co.uk

In Search of the Holy Grail

Representing the Access Industry Forum (AIF), PASMA's managing director, Peter Bennett, will take part in a ground breaking panel discussion at this year's AIF Knowledge Base - part of the Safety & Health Expo at the NEC, Birmingham, 17-19 May. He will join Nick Johnson representing HSE, Nigel Bryson OBE for the British Safety Council, Barry Holt, director of policy and research at IIRSM, Roger Bibbings MBE on behalf of RoSPA and John Holden, immediate past president of IOSH, to discuss 'How to achieve the Holy Grail - no more working at height accidents, ever!'

David Thomas, safety, health and environment director at William Hare, will chair the 45-minute discussion starting at noon on Wednesday, 18th May. Thomas was previously principal specialist inspector of health and safety (construction) at HSE. This is the first time that all the major health and safety organisations have come together to debate such an important topic.

Leigh Sparrow, publisher of Cranes&Access and Vertikal.Net, will chair an equally important discussion 'Maintaining effective work at height policies in a tough economic climate' on the Thursday of the show, starting at 12 noon. Contributors will include representatives from BSIF, CIOB and the UK Contractors Group (UKCG).

In addition to the Knowledge Base, the Forum will be sponsoring the 'Working at Height' Demonstration Area and the 'Working at Height' Information Centre.

More details at www.safety-health-expo.co.uk and on the Forum's recently redesigned website www.accessindustryforum.org.uk



C&a

PASMA

New venue for Annual Members' Meeting

To coincide with the inaugural PASMA Village at Vertikal Days, the Association has arranged for the Annual Members' Meeting to take place in the Whittle Suite at Haydock Park Racecourse on 23rd June starting at 11.00am. Afterwards, delegates can take the opportunity to tour the Vertikal Days showground and visit the PASMA Village.

Several PASMA members have

already booked space in the Village and a growing number are expressing interest. Outside space costs £35 per metre, including use of the tower demo area*, and a table top in the PASMA gazebo is just £500 - ideal for training providers on a limited budget. For more information please contact Chris Kendall on 07973 727356.

* Subject to demand, demonstration slots will be allocated in advance of the show.

PASMA at IOSH Conference and Exhibition

PASMA's technical manager, Don Aers, along with other member organisations of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), presented a paper at the Working at Height Seminar organised as part of the 2011 IOSH Conference and Exhibition at ExCel in London's Docklands on Tuesday, 15th March. PASMA was also represented on the AIF stand together with ATLAS, EPF, FASET, IPAF, NASC and the Ladder Association.



Don Aers

2011 Annual Review

The next Annual Review is in the course of preparation now. To illustrate the document, PASMA members are invited to submit suitable tower pictures for consideration. Please send them to jill.couttie@pasma.co.uk

The Association would also like to hear from members who have been involved in unusual or different applications of mobile access towers.

Contact details



PO Box 26969, Glasgow G3 9DR
Tel: 0845 230 4041
Fax: 0845 230 4042
Email: info@pasma.co.uk
www.pasma.co.uk