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# Don Aers and Stuart Hopkins appointed PASMA directors

PASMA's technical manager, Don Aers, and training scheme manager, Stuart Hopkins, have both been appointed as directors of the association with effect from 1st January 2012. They become technical director and director of training respectively.



Don Aers

Aers joined the association in January 2010 from the Youngman group. After graduating in engineering from Brunel University, he worked for Pye, BOC and Alcatel in various design and development roles, including a spell as chief design engineer with Cinevision Services in London and Tokyo. He joined Youngman as technical manager in 1995.

He is a well known figure in the access industry. As well as being a member of the BSI B514 (access and support equipment), B514/24

(mobile access tower) and B514/41 (fixings) committees, he sits as a UK representative on CEN technical committee TC53 (temporary works equipment) and TC53 working group 4 (mobile towers). He is also a past chairman of the Ladder Association, a member of the BSI B512 Ladder Standards Committee and sits as a UK representative on CEN TC93, the European Ladder Standards Committee.

PASMA's new director of training Stuart Hopkins, joined PASMA in 2008 from rental company HSS where he was group senior trainer,



having previously held various positions including branch manager, area manager and national training manager.

He holds the certificate in training practice from the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development, the RoSPA safety instructor's certificate and was chairman of the IPAF training committee 2004-2005.

PASMA's managing director, Peter Bennett said: "Both



Stuart Hopkins

Don and Stuart are well known and respected throughout the industry and are two of the most experienced people in the access and work at height sectors. Their advancement recognises their respective contributions to the association and provides the necessary platform for them to support the work of the various committees, liaise with the relevant regulatory bodies and provide advice and guidance to PASMA's 300 plus members in the UK and Ireland."

Aers looks after the PASMA Technical and Hire & Assembly Committees, while Hopkins is responsible for the PASMA Training Committee.

## PASMA responds to Löfstedt review

PASMA has joined with other AIF member organisations in responding to the Löfstedt review on health and safety legislation by welcoming the report, and in particular the fact that professor Löfstedt acknowledges that the problem lies less with the regulations themselves and more with their interpretation.

Managing director Peter Bennett said: "We welcome a report into health and safety that proposes to simplify the regulations and by doing so brings greater clarity and understanding to their application. However, we do have a number of significant misgivings, not least of which is the proposal to exempt self-employed workers from certain requirements of health and safety legislation. Working at height is inherently hazardous and needs to be properly controlled and managed."

A key outcome for PASMA and other AIF organisations - the forum for all the principal trade associations and federations involved in work at height - is the recommendation that the Work at Height Regulations and associated guidance should be reviewed by April 2013. The regulations are central to much of the work of PASMA and have informed an important part of its guidance and best practice advice since their introduction in 2005. PASMA, and the AIF, looks forward to making a significant contribution to the review process going forward and is reassured by the comment in the report, "Any changes to the Work at Height Regulations should not result in an increased risk to employees or others."



## More toolbox talks

PASMA has produced two new Toolbox Talks offering practical and pragmatic advice and guidance, they can be viewed free online at [www.pasma.co.uk](http://www.pasma.co.uk)

Covering fall protection and low level access, they have a running time of approximately 10 minutes and come complete with a short online questionnaire to assess understanding. They are presented by PASMA's technical director, Don Aers, "Toolbox Talks are an innovative way of getting key messages and guidance about how to work at height safely, over to a wider audience."

