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'Ready reckoner' helps operators with spreader plate sizes

IPAF has launched the 'ready reckoner', a conversion tool that helps operators calculate appropriate spreader plate sizes to ensure the safe use of powered access equipment. The new tool builds on IPAF's international Spread the Load campaign, which says that spreader plates should always be used with boom lifts, when fully supported on their outriggers and with all other lifts that have outriggers, unless a risk assessment indicates they are not necessary.



The 'ready reckoner' enables operators to quickly understand the weights and loadings that need to be considered and by entering the weight of a machine and identifying the soil type, they can then identify the suitable size and specification of spreader plates to be used. Spreader plates should be of sufficient size, stiffness and strength to spread the load over the required area.

"A significant problem is that manufacturers currently use a variety of units for measuring relative bearing pressures," says IPAF technical officer Chris Wraith. "The new conversion tool makes it clear and simple for those looking for ready guidance. The campaign message is straightforward: Always do a risk assessment and check ground conditions. Know the weight of the machine and be aware of point loadings and ground load-bearing capacities."

The ready reckoner, together with a free video, stickers and posters, are available at www.ipaf.org/spreaders

Spraying for safety

Two pieces of urban art focusing on powered access safety were created at the IPAF Safety Zone at Intermat, made possible with the support of the show organisers.

The artists from Paris and Brighton, Mr. Shiz and Foundry, sprayed two seven by four metre canvases, working from a boom and a scissor lift. The artists had to cope with rain and strong winds during the show, which meant that the work had to be stopped at times for safety reasons. Mr. Shiz and Foundry



have completed IPAF training courses, which stood them in good stead to operate the machines safely and complete their works of art. The two pieces of urban art have found permanent homes - at JLG Italy and at Italian training centre Formamentis.

Making access safety alive and real

A series of IPAF presentations and demonstrations will be part of the Access Industry Forum Knowledge Base and Live Zone during the Safety & Health Expo from 15th to 17th May, at the NEC Birmingham in the UK. The IPAF presentations will include: 'Developments in the powered access industry' (15th May at 13:50) and 'Managing MEWPs safely' (16th May at 10:30). The demonstrations will feature 'Familiarisation and pre-use checks: What an operator needs to know' (15th May, 11:30), 'Avoiding trapping and crushing incidents when using MEWPs' (16th May, 14:00), and 'Spread the load: Safe use of spreader plates' (17th May, 12.20).



IPAF Annual Report published

The IPAF Annual Report is now available at the Publications section of www.ipaf.org and printed copies can be obtained by sending an e-mail to info@ipaf.org

Accident reporting: First quarter preliminary results

There were seven fatal accidents worldwide involving aerial lifts in the first quarter of 2012, according to preliminary results of IPAF's accident database.

Of these accidents, three involved vehicle mounts (1b), two involved scissor lifts (3a), one involved a boom (3b) and one was unknown. Three accidents were caused by overturning (two involving 3a and one unknown), two were electrocutions caused by contact with overhead power lines (one 1b and one 3b) and two were technically related (two 1b). Six of the accidents occurred in the USA while the seventh occurred in Australia.

Presenting the findings, IPAF technical officer Chris Wraith stressed that the results are preliminary and encouraged the reporting of all known serious accidents involving aerial lifts at www.ipaf.org/accident

IPAF market reports predict a strong US, a steady Europe and a booming Brazil

The USA powered access market experienced relatively strong growth in rental revenue to \$6.2 billion in 2011, due to increased demand and higher rental rates. Continuous growth is expected over the next two years.

The European market is now worth approximately €2.3 billion, with Germany considered the largest market in value terms, followed by France and the UK.

One of the highlights is the prediction of 40 percent annual fleet growth over the next five years in Brazil, which is included in this year's reports. If correct, the estimated fleet of 14,500 to 15,000 units will increase to 25,000 by the end of 2013.

The IPAF US and European Powered Access Rental Market Reports 2012 are available in English and can be purchased at www.ipaf.org/reports



Call for comments: Proposed update to harness technical guidance

IPAF proposes to update its technical guidance H1 on harnesses in order to ensure that advice given is current and consistent. Following initial consultation with industry representatives, the proposed changes can be reviewed at the members only section of www.ipaf.org. Members are invited to submit comments by 15th May 2012.



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