

Mobile Access Towers

supplement 2012

A review of the mobile access
tower sector in collaboration
with PASMA



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Achieving more

Welcome to this second mobile access tower supplement published in conjunction with Cranes & Access. Much has happened since the first supplement, most notably the publication of PASMA's Fall Protection Review. Carried out in collaboration with the UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE), it confirmed that both the 3T (Through the Trap) and AGR (Advance Guardrail) methods continue to provide a recognised safe system of work.



PASMA's chairman
Roger Verallo

Another landmark promises to be the outcome of the review of EN1004 - the European standard for mobile access towers - currently being undertaken by working group WG4 under the convenorship of PASMA's managing director, Peter Bennett, as part of CEN Technical Committee, CEN/TC 53. The review process will be informed by input from technical experts from the other EU states.

The recently published Löfstedt Review: Reclaiming Health And Safety For All makes a number of recommendations - most importantly for PASMA, its members and tower users, that the current Work at Height Regulations and associated guidance should be reviewed by April 2013.

In its own right and as part of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), the Association plans to be fully involved in the consultation process.

2012 will also see the launch of PASMA Tower Week, a new initiative from the Association putting towers, PASMA and PASMA members in the spotlight. It is to be piloted regionally in Yorkshire in the first instance and nationally thereafter.

Meanwhile, PASMA continues to train more than 50,000 delegates each year, develop new tower training courses and best practice guidance and, of course, promote the use of towers in an increasingly wide and diverse range of industry sectors - from construction, cleaning and maintenance to facilities management, utilities and the specialist trades.

The popularity of the mobile access tower as a practical, safe and flexible piece of access equipment when working at height has never been greater. The Association and its members - manufacturers, hirer/dealers and training centres - are making sure that as the use of this versatile piece of workplace equipment continues to grow, everyone involved remains productive and safe.

Roger Verallo
Chairman
PASMA



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PASMA Head Office and
Administration Centre
PO Box 26969
Glasgow, G3 9DR
T: 0845 230 4041
F: 0845 230 4042
E: info@pasma.co.uk
W: www.pasma.co.uk

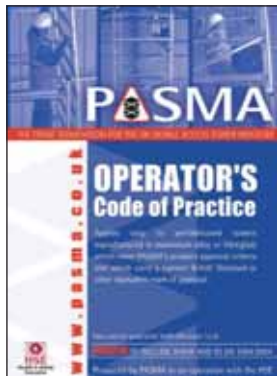


PASMA: The first port of call

PASMA plays a pivotal role in training, developing and representing the mobile access tower industry. Recognised as the voice of the industry, it sets standards within the sector and is the first port of call for tower information, knowledge and advice. It provides this information in a number of different ways.

PASMA Website

The recently enhanced website covers everything from finding a member and locating a training centre, to sourcing safety-related products and standards. As such it is the natural and logical focus for anything relating to best practice when using mobile access towers. Designed to keep users in touch with the latest news and developments, it provides up-to-the-minute information on all aspects of tower use and application. Go to www.pasma.co.uk



PASMA Code of Practice

The bible of the industry, the PASMA Code of Practice contains details of the most recent regulations and guidance. Available as a stand-alone document for users, their supervisors and managers, including health and safety professionals, it also acts as an invaluable reminder to delegates of the topics covered in PASMA's formal training courses. Available from the PASMA shop online.

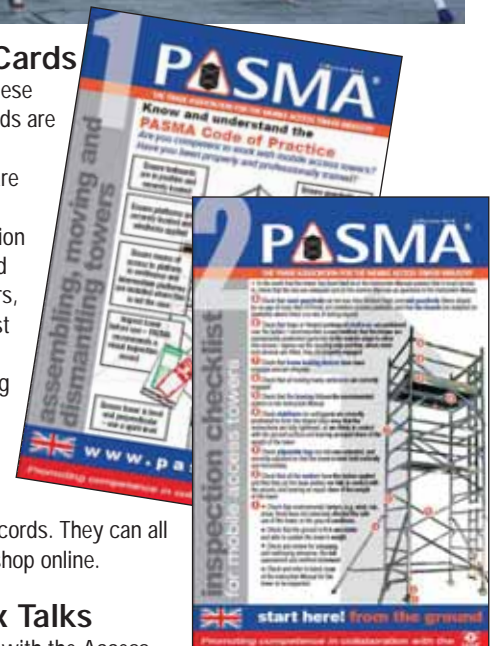
PASMA DVDs

PASMA titles currently include 'Don't Fall For It', 'Guide to Safe Use' and 'Accidents Can Happen Even at Low Level'. They all cover different aspects of working at height using towers and very clearly demonstrate the right and wrong ways of assembling, moving, dismantling and inspecting towers on site. Available from the PASMA shop online.



PASMA PocketCards

As the name suggests, these laminated, handy-size cards are ideal as a quick and easy reference. Two versions are available. The first is a simple-to-follow explanation of the key factors involved when working with towers, and the second a checklist for use by anyone with responsibility for recording tower inspections under the Work at Height Regulations. PASMA also produces its own Tower Inspection Records. They can all be found on the PASMA shop online.



PASMA Toolbox Talks

Developed in conjunction with the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and presented by PASMA's technical director, Don Aers, the talks are free to view online and cover fall protection advice, low level access and frequently asked questions about mobile access towers. Each one runs for approximately 10 minutes and is complete with a simple online questionnaire to assess understanding. Go to www.pasma.co.uk

PASMA and the AIF Knowledge Base

Since the inception of the AIF Knowledge Base in 2010 at the annual Safety & Health Expo, PASMA has taken part in a number of panel discussions and debates which can be viewed on the Access Industry Forum (AIF) website. The most recent, 'In search of the Holy Grail: No more working at height accidents, ever!' features PASMA's managing director, Peter Bennett, in discussion with senior representatives of HSE, IOSH, IIRSM, the British Safety Council (BSC) and the Association for Project Safety (APS). Go to www.accessindustryforum.org.uk

PASMA Fall Protection Review: working safely with towers

As the trade body for the mobile access tower industry in the UK and Ireland, and the organisation committed to driving standards, safety and best practice, PASMA has now published its much anticipated review into recommended best practice for the avoidance of falls from height when assembling, moving and dismantling mobile access towers.

The review was carried out in collaboration with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and represents a significant milestone for the industry. The 20-page report brings clarity to the use of Through the Trap (3T) and Advance Guardrail (AGR) methods for assembling, altering and dismantling mobile access towers.

The 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 a fall.

As suggested by HSE, part of the review included ergonomic research undertaken by the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) into various aspects of tower assembly using both methods. The HSL concluded that 'with correct manual handling techniques and body positioning, the risks to manual handling related musculoskeletal health were kept within tolerable limits in both processes'.



The Fall Protection Review recommends best practice for the avoidance of falls from height when working with towers.

Significantly for the thousands of tower users in the UK and Ireland, having considered the outcome and implications of the review, the PASMA training committee concluded that current PASMA cardholders do not have to re-train until their card has expired at the end of the normal five year period. It also decided that the content of the



The course ensures all instructors have a in-depth knowledge of the developments in Advance Guardrail towers

current PASMA training course was sufficient to provide an acceptable working knowledge of the AGR process.

However, it did conclude that the Association's standard 'Towers for Users' course could be enhanced by extending the existing content to cover the latest developments in AGR systems, particularly integral type products.

PASMA's managing director, Peter Bennett said: "The review process 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 tower manufacturers in support of a new generation of integral AGRs."

"We can assure duty holders that both 3T and AGR systems remain equally acceptable to both the Association and HSE."

The review process involved soliciting input from stakeholders to identify the issues to be investigated, the production of an interim report detailing these issues, practical technical workshops and a training workshop to examine all the issues in detail. It included the commissioning of independent, expert research by Health and Safety Laboratories (HSL) to examine specific ergonomic questions and the issuing of a briefing report to a wide range of stakeholders as part of a consultation exercise to a wider range of industries.

Since publication, PASMA has taken

the following steps to implement the recommendations flowing from the report.

CPD seminars: These seminars - mandatory for PASMA instructors - which included practical demonstrations, were run throughout the UK to ensure that all instructors fully understood both the content and implications of the review. In particular, they were intended to provide knowledge and information about the latest developments in Advance Guardrail towers.

Towers for Users course: PASMA's industry standard training course now includes a mandatory section, both theoretical and practical, devoted to Advance Guardrail towers. Changes mean that delegates are marked on their understanding of AGR towers in exactly the same way as 3T towers.

Finally, a new training course - AGRs for Towers for Users - has been introduced. Intended to supplement, but not replace, the Towers for Users course, it focuses entirely on safety and best practice when using Advance Guardrail mobile access towers. It is geared towards those delegates wishing to acquire a more in-depth understanding of AGR systems.



Course in progress

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Latest News

Specifications and Standards

PAS 250

The new PASMA sponsored Publicly Available Specification (PAS 250) for podium type products is now in the last stages of editing prior to publication. Its official title is 'Low-level work platform with one working platform with side protection for use by one person with a maximum working platform height of less than 2.5m - Specification'. More simply, it is the new standard for podium platforms and its



PASMA's technical director, Don Aers

development has been warmly welcomed by users and regulators as setting the minimum safety and performance requirements for these essential everyday access products. Publication is expected in May 2012. These products currently fall outside the scope of standards for similar products.

Revision of EN1004

Following the last meeting of the CEN Technical Committee 53 Working Group 4 Mobile Access and Working Towers, PASMA has been busy re-drafting the discussion document that will form the basis of a revision for EN1004. The last meeting of the working group highlighted the significant differences in the way mobile access towers are used across Europe which points to some interesting challenges ahead for the working group.

BS8539

Another standard currently under development and in which PASMA has an interest is BS8539: a 'Code of practice for the selection and installation of post-installed anchors in concrete and masonry'. Whilst it may not be immediately obvious why PASMA would have an interest in this standard, it will form the basis of future guidance to tying-in anchors (fastenings), which is common practice. PASMA's technical director, Don Aers, has been a member of the BSI committee developing the standard which is led by the Construction Fixings Association (CFA).



PASMA's director of training, Stuart Hopkins

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PASMA Tower Week 2012

PASMA's first ever Tower Week will take place in Yorkshire, 11-15 June, with a launch event at the Royal Armouries in Leeds on Monday, 11 June, starting at 9.30am. The week long campaign will focus attention on mobile access towers as a safe, flexible and increasingly popular piece of access equipment for working at height. It will also provide invaluable data to help inform the future work of the Association. Initially confined to Yorkshire, in advance of a national roll out, the initiative will see PASMA members, in collaboration with the Association, stage a series of tower-related events and activities aimed at both casual and regular users - from the self-employed to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to major contractors, utilities and local authorities.

Specifically, PASMA Tower Week will:

- Promote the safe use of towers and encourage best practice;
- Demonstrate the versatility and all-round benefits of towers;
- Provide a snapshot of towers in use in the workplace;
- Raise awareness of the PASMA brand and training.

Communications officer, Jill Coultie who is managing the campaign, says: "Working alongside our members - and there are a lot of them in Yorkshire - we aim to get existing and potential users thinking and talking about towers. We will be rewarding examples of good practice, providing advice and information to counter poor practice but, above all, showcasing the contribution of mobile access towers to the work at height sector." More information from jill.coultie@pasma.co.uk



For more information about PASMA Tower Week please go to <http://towerweek.pasma.org.uk>

PASMA and the AIF

PASMA is a founder member of the Access Industry Forum (AIF) which provides a forum for all the principal trade Associations and Federations involved in work at height. All eleven members of the Forum are standards driven and committed to advancing safety, best practice and competency. The Forum champions a system of accreditation whereby all users of access equipment and safety solutions, regardless of type, produce formal and independent proof of training as issued by its member organisations. For more information please visit www.accessindustryforum.org.uk

Alongside other Forum member organisations, PASMA has produced two more Toolbox Talks offering practical advice and guidance. They can be viewed free online at 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. Technical director, Don Aers, delivers the talks.



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PASMA training: the industry yardstick

Since PASMA introduced its current 'industry standard' tower training course back in 2005 it has successfully trained more than 300,000 individuals in the safe and productive use of mobile access towers. PASMA training courses are now recognised and respected throughout industry and are delivered throughout the UK through 203 approved training centres and 143 satellite centres. The Association currently trains around 50,000 delegates every year each of whom receive a PASMA certificate of competence and training identity photocard - increasingly the only proof of competence accepted on UK job sites and in the workplace.

Stuart Hopkins, PASMA's director of training, said: "By collating and distilling the collective knowledge and expertise of PASMA members - people who know and understand towers and speak the language - we have arrived at a course that is now recognised as the definitive benchmark for competency when working with towers. A PASMA photocard represents demonstrable proof that the holder has been trained to best practice standards based on the latest legislation and most current guidance which, importantly, PASMA plays a lead role in developing."

The Association currently offers a choice of training courses that are only available through approved and audited PASMA training centres. A team of experienced and qualified auditors ensures that the high standards associated with PASMA training are maintained at all times. The courses now include:

Towers for Users

PASMA's standard course, now renamed the Towers for Users course, is the Association's flagship course aimed at personnel who are responsible for assembling, dismantling, moving and inspecting mobile access towers. There are over 300,000 operatives carrying a current PASMA identity photocard working in a huge number of different industry sectors throughout the UK and Ireland.

Work at Height Essentials

An increasingly popular course for anyone who knows little or nothing about working at height. This half-day course provides essential information about towers, plus an insight into the use of all forms of access equipment as represented by the member organisations of the Access Industry Forum (AIF). For example, leaning ladders, stepladders, aerial work platforms and scaffolding.



Low Level Access

This is a half-day course aimed at personnel who work from prefabricated units with a platform height of less than 2.5 metres in height. It includes guidance on how to use folding step units and folding tower units safely and productively.

"There is still some confusion surrounding the definition of low level access," says Hopkins. "Many organisations, both large and small, especially in the construction sector, do not understand the difference between low level access and working at a height above 2.5 metres. Companies often assume that if they send their personnel on the Towers for Users course, they are automatically qualified and competent to work at low level. They are not, and need to satisfactorily complete PASMA's Low Level Access course to achieve the level of competency required."

AGRs for Towers for Users

Introduced as a result of the Fall Protection Review, this course is specifically designed for users wanting to acquire additional knowledge and understanding when

using Advance Guardrail mobile access towers on site. Comprising both theory and practical sessions, it covers current legislation, regulations and guidance affecting work at height using towers, the PASMA Code of Practice, assembling, altering and dismantling towers incorporating current best practice for fall protection, the components and differences between the various types of AGR tower available, inspection and the completion of the necessary inspection records, and hazards affecting the use of mobile access towers.

There is also a Combined Low Level Access and Towers for Users Course.

New courses due for imminent release from PASMA include Towers for Managers, Towers for Riggers and Towers on Stairs.



Access towers make light work of solar panel installations

The safety and operational benefits of mobile access towers are increasingly recognised and the range of diverse applications in which towers are used continues to grow. A recent example is where advance guardrail towers have been



The mobile tower took just 50 minutes to erect and provides all the coverage required to install the solar panels

successfully used to provide access for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to over 800 council-owned properties in Nottingham.

The solar PV system produces electrical energy using light from the sun by processing daylight that is converted to electricity. This is then fed into the electrical installation of the property and used in favour of the energy bought from the electricity supplier.

The process is almost as ground breaking as the use of aluminium access towers in preference to traditional steel scaffolding.

The advance guardrail system is one of two methods currently recommended by PASMA and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for the assembly and dismantling of mobile access towers. Detailed in HSE guidance document CIS 10 - along with the 3T method (Through the Trap) - a tower system was chosen on this scheme for a number of reasons.

Firstly, by providing comprehensive fall protection, it offered an approved, safe method of access for the solar panel fitters. Unlike conventional scaffolding, it can also be assembled, dismantled and removed in one day eliminating the risks associated with access equipment being left on site overnight.

Secondly, it was quicker and easier to install, taking three fitters, on average, just 50 minutes to provide safe and secure access to the front elevation of a typical semi-detached property. A considerable saving when compared with traditional tube and fitting alternatives.

Finally, it delivered important cost benefits and improved levels of customer satisfaction at a time when demonstrating value for money is a key priority.

In summary then, the use of towers on this scheme ensured that the work was carried out faster, safer and more efficiently than conventional alternatives.

It also meant that the convenience and flexibility of a tower system ensured that the work could be better planned and managed, with more scope to adapt to changing conditions on site - for example, as a result of worsening weather conditions.

Significantly, the success of the scheme in Nottingham means that the same advance guardrail system is now being used in Sheffield. The Sheffield scheme requires safe access in an identical way for roof repairs and maintenance work to the council's housing stock.

Contractor Kier is responsible for delivering both the Nottingham City Council solar PV scheme and the Sheffield City Council roofing and repairs scheme. In both cases the tower system supplier is Hi-Point Scaffolding Ltd using the BetaGuard® system from Turner Access. Both companies are long standing members of PASMA.

At the time, Kier's health, safety and environment manager for maintenance, Neil Sheehan, commented: "Safety, particularly when working at height, is an absolute priority for Kier. This solution not only provides us with a safe method of working at height, but also speeds up and simplifies the entire process on site and delivers considerable cost savings at the same time."

"It makes a compelling case for the use of towers instead of scaffolding in jobs of this type."

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| Essential Access Training & Sales | www.essentialaccess.co.uk |
| ET Hire Ltd | www.ethire.com |
| Euro Towers Ltd | www.eurotowers.co.uk |
| Evolve Training a division of R S Safety Services Ltd | www.evolvevtraining.com |
| Facelift GB Ltd | www.facelift.co.uk |
| Fife Council | www.fifedirect.org.uk |
| Flow Access Systems Ltd | www.flowaccess.co.uk |
| Force Group Training Services | www.forcegrouptraining.co.uk |
| Frank Clarke T/A Heywood H & S Solutions | 07905 629 268 |
| Gable Scaffolding Contractors | www.gablescaffolding.co.uk |
| Gamble Training Services | www.gamble.f9.co.uk |
| Gatwick Group Training Division | www.gatwickgrouptraining.co.uk |
| Gelder Group Ltd | www.gelder.co.uk |
| Generation Training Services | www.generationhireandsale.co.uk |
| Geoff Carr T/A First Point Safety | admin@firstpointsafety.co.uk |
| Geoffrey Osborne Ltd | www.osborne.co.uk |
| GH Training Limited | 01942 20 2132 |
| Giraffe Access Company Ltd | www.giraffeaccess.com |
| GL Training (UK) Ltd. | www.gltraininguk.co.uk |
| Harsco Infrastructure Services Ltd | www.harsco-i.co.uk |
| Harwood Access Training Solutions | www.access2allareas.co.uk |
| Health & Safety Training Ltd | www.hst.uk.com |
| Heartbeat Safety Ltd | www.heartbeat.ie |
| Heightsafe Training | 0161 747 7889 |
| Hewden | www.hewden.co.uk |
| Higher Concept Software Ltd | www.higherconcept.co.uk |
| Highway Plant Co Ltd | www.highwayplant.com |
| Hi-Point Scaffolding Ltd | www.hi-pointscaffolding.co.uk |
| Hire Station Ltd | www.hirestation.co.uk |
| Holbrook Fork Lift Training Services | www.holbrookliftcentre.co.uk |
| Homesafe Scaffolding Ltd | www.homescaffolding.co.uk |
| HSS Hire Service Group Ltd | www.hsstraining.com |
| Hunton Access Training Services (HATS) | www.hss.com |
| Ian Johnston (Sole Trader) | 07971 327 320 |
| Ideal Scaffold (East Anglia) Ltd | www.idealscaffold.com |
| Industrial Access Systems Ltd | www.deskspan.co.uk |
| Industrial Training Services Ltd | www.industrial-training-services.co.uk |
| Instant Access for Sales and Rental of Construction Equipment | www.instantaccess-co.com |
| Instant Training Ltd | www.instant-training.com |
| Instant Upright Ltd | www.instantupright.com |
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| John Laing Training Ltd | www.jlaingtraining.co.uk |

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| Just Mobile Towers Limited | www.justmobiletowers.co.uk | RSS Training & Consultancy Ltd | www.rsstraining.com |
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| Ken Rogers T/A Kenny Rogers Training | 01633 672228 | S J Everett T/A Health & Safety Services | 0161 427 3228 |
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| Kingfisher Access Services | www.kingfisheraccess.co.uk | Safe-Tec Training Services Ltd | 01733 265 925 |
| Knowledge Warehouse Ltd | www.nwkcollege.ac.uk | Safety & Access Ltd | www.safetyaccess.co.uk |
| KNT Training | www.knt-training.co.uk | Safety Mundo Ltd | www.safetymundo.com |
| Lakeside Deliveries Limited | www.lakeside-hire.co.uk | Safety Platforms Ltd | www.safetyplatforms.co.uk |
| Lansford Access Ltd | www.ladders-999.co.uk | Safety Training & Consultants Ltd | www.stctraining.co.uk |
| Lawrence Walshe (Soletrader) | www.jlaingtraining.co.uk | Safety Training Solutions Ltd | www.sts-scotland.co.uk |
| Lawson's Training Centre Ltd | www.lawsons.u-net.com | Safetymen Ltd | www.safetymen.co.uk |
| Layher Ltd | www.layher.co.uk | Sage Safety & Training Ltd | www.sage-safetytraining.co.uk |
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| Lifterz Ltd | www.lifterz.co.uk | SECAS Training Ltd | www.secas.co.uk |
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| Minster Studies Ltd | www.minsterstudiesltd.co.uk | Specialist Access Training Ltd / Britannia International Training & Safety | www.britanniaits.com |
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| Mono Services Limited | www.monoservices.co.uk | S&S Training & Consultancy | www.ssg.co.uk |
| National Construction College | www.cskills.org | Stage Electrics | www.stage-electrics.co.uk |
| Nationwide Platforms Ltd | www.nationwideplatforms.co.uk | Steve Harris Safety Training Services (Sole Trader) | 01905 617 499 |
| Nationwide Training Services | www.nationwideplatforms.co.uk | Stobart Rail Ltd | www.stobartrail.co.uk |
| Neil Waldron T/A Approved Access Training | 01530 222 851 | Stratus Electrical | www.stratus-electrical.co.uk |
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| NIS Training | www.nistraining.co.uk | The Insurance Partnership | www.insurance-partnership.com |
| North East Access Training Ltd. | www.northeastaccesstraining.co.uk | The Modern Trades Academy Ltd | www.directsafetyservices.co.uk |
| North West Training Council | www.nwtc.co.uk | The Safety Maintenance Company Ltd | www.safetymaintenancecompany.co.uk |
| Northampton College | www.northamptoncollege.ac.uk | The Tool People | www.ttp.moonfruit.com |
| Northern Counties Safety Group Ltd | www.ncsg.co.uk | The Training Societi Ltd | www.thetrainingsocieti.co.uk/pasma-training-bristol-bath-pasma-towers-for-users |
| Northern Safety Ltd | www.northernsafetyltd.co.uk | Thermal Insulation Contractors Association | www.tica-acad.co.uk |
| Oakmere Safety Consultancy | www.oakmeresafety.com | TMS International Ltd | www.tms-int.co.uk |
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| On The Job Training (A Division of LFI Newent) Ltd | www.lfi-ladders.co.uk | Tone Hire & Sales Limited | www.tonehireandsales.co.uk |
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| Orion Access Services Ltd | www.orionaccess.co.uk | Training & Assessment Consultants Ltd | www.trainingandassessmentconsultants.co.uk |
| Ormerod Management Services Ltd | www.height-safe.com | Training 2000 Ltd | www.training2000.co.uk |
| Outreach Ltd | www.outreachltd.co.uk | Training Assessment Safety Consultants Ltd | www.tasconsultants.com |
| Paul Sandham Access Training | www.psat.co.uk | Training-4-Safety (Barry Donaghy Sole Trader) | www.training-4-safety.co.uk |
| Paul Woodhead (Sole Trader) | 07973 315 798 | Trainrite Ltd. | www.trainriteuk.co.uk |
| Peter Fannan (Soletrader) | 07956 133 203 | Turner Access Ltd | www.turner-access.co.uk |
| Peter Hird & Sons Ltd | www.peter-hird.co.uk | UK Access Solutions | www.ukaccesssolutions.uk.com |
| Philip Markley T/A MAT Training Services | 07747 600 943 | UK Construction Training Ltd | www.thsp.co.uk |
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| Ploughcroft Training & Development | www.ploughcroft.co.uk | Warren Bradbury Training | 0773 807 6353 |
| Pop up Products Ltd | www.popupproducts.co.uk | Webbs Training Services (a Trading name of Kingscote Ltd) | www.webbs-site.co.uk |
| Portakabin (Scottish Division) | www.portakabin.com | Willmott Dixon Partnerships Ltd | www.willmott Dixon.co.uk |
| Pro-Fix Access Ltd | www.profixaccess.co.uk | Work at Height Training Ltd/Irish Rope Access Ltd | www.workatheight.ie |
| Project Hire and Sales (Guernsey) Ltd. | www.project.gg | Wright Training Services | 07525 207 990 |
| PRS Hire Services Ltd / UK Diamond Drilling | www.prshireserviceltd.co.uk | XI Training Ltd | www.xitraining.co.uk |
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| Richard Chapman (Sole Trader) | 07957882417 | | |
| Richards Associates Access Ltd | www.racca.com | | |
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