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UKCG supports PAL+ for steel erectors and net riggers

The UK Contractors Group (UKCG), at a meeting of its Health & Safety Sub Group, has decided to encourage steel erectors and net riggers working on UKCG sites to hold an IPAF PAL+ qualification from 1st January 2013. It also agreed to extend this to other trades on specific projects, on a risk-assessed basis.

PAL+ is an optional, additional one day of category-specific training for aerial work platform operators working in higher risk or challenging environments. Eddie Reast, an IPAF-certified senior instructor at Facelift, one of the first IPAF-approved training centres to conduct PAL+ courses said:



IPAF's PAL+ course includes challenging practical exercises.

"Operators and instructors, have found the PAL+ course useful and beneficial for the improvement of knowledge and operating skills. The course includes a compact theory session and written test. The emphasis on practical training is excellent and the practical test is challenging even for experienced operators."

More information on PAL+ is at www.ipaf.org/palplus

17 fatalities in the first half-year

There were 17 fatal accidents worldwide involving aerial work platforms in the first half of 2012, according to preliminary results of IPAF's accident database. The causes of these accidents were fairly evenly spread: Four electrocutions, four overturns, four mechanically related, four falls from platform and an entrapment. Seven accidents involved vehicle mounts (1b), six involved booms (3b), and three involved scissor lifts (3a).

In one accident, the machine type was unknown.

Of these accidents, 11 occurred in the USA, two in the UK and one each in Australia, the Netherlands, Singapore and Spain. The results are preliminary. Manufacturers, rental companies, contractors and users are encouraged to report all known fatal and serious accidents involving aerial lifts worldwide. More than 30 IPAF member companies have already signed a voluntary pledge to report all known accidents of their company involving aerial lifts.

To see and sign the pledge, and to report accidents, go to www.ipaf.org/accident



Yorkshire regional meeting October

IPAF regional meetings are a simple and effective way to learn about the industry and meet other colleagues. The next regional meeting will take place on 11th October at 18:00 in Yorkshire at the Holiday Inn, Wakefield WF5 9BE. Details are at www.ipaf.org/events

IPAF regional meetings bring people in the industry together.

At the last South East regional meeting in Stansted: Peter Jones, Giles Councill, Robert Hinton and James Darnley.



IPAF Irish Council chair Julie Smyth is seen here with Dave Meeke, Highway Plant's senior IPAF-certified instructor and CAP assessor, on occasion of Highway Plant achieving the IPAF Rental+ quality mark and becoming a CAP assessment centre.

Julie Smyth to chair IPAF Irish Council

Julie Smyth, director of Belfast-based Highway Plant, has been unanimously elected as chair of the IPAF Irish Council. She takes over from Andrew Davin of Aerial Platform Hire and is the first female to chair an IPAF committee/country council. She has been a member of the IPAF Council, the Federation's main governing body, for two years.

The IPAF Irish Council, formerly known as the Republic of Ireland Council, is open to IPAF members from both the north and south of Ireland. This Council is working on initiatives to raise the profile of the PAL Card and IPAF training among

Irish authorities. "I look forward to working with our fellow IPAF members on the Irish Council, and welcome the challenges of addressing the safety issues that face our industry," said Julie Smyth.

Europlatform in Edinburgh: Don't miss it



Top-level speakers from access rental companies such as Riwal, Ramirent and Loxam will address the Europlatform conference on 20th September in Edinburgh.

'Success in Access Rentals' is this year's theme, topics will range from measuring rental performance and asset finance, to using telematics and boosting business with social media. The conference will take place at the Radisson Blu Hotel in central Edinburgh, located in the middle of the historic Royal Mile near Edinburgh Castle.

A networking event will be held on the evening before at the Scotch Whisky Experience, also located on the Royal Mile. The UK Country Council will also meet on 19th September at 13:00, at the Radisson Blu Hotel. Book your place now at www.europlatform.info

Save the date: IAPAs and IPAF Summit 2013 in Miami

The International Awards for Powered Access (IAPAs) and the IPAF Summit will be held on 26th March 2013 at the Hilton Miami Downtown Hotel, Florida, USA. Book now at www.iapa-summit.info

