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All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

Lack of training costs £8,700

A court has issued fines and costs totalling more than £8,700 against Fastrac Profiles of Willenhall, near Wolverhampton, UK, after its employees were photographed working at height without any protective measures or relevant training. The refurbishment and shop fitting company had instructed two of its employees to carry out work on the roof of a large furniture store in Cannock, in September 2011, when they were spotted and photographed by a concerned member of the public.

A complaint was made to the Health and Safety Executive, which visited the premises and found that the two were not trained to work on roof repairs, had no access equipment or fall protection, that the work was poorly planned and that no risk assessment had been carried out. Although there had been no fall or injury the court ruled that the two employees, plus others working below them, were placed in unnecessary danger. The company pleaded guilty to breaching Work At Height Regulations 2005.

HSE Inspector Alastair Choudhury said: "Falls from height are a significant cause of fatalities and serious injuries. The risks involved with work at height are entirely foreseeable, and it is essential that proper planning, assessment and training is undertaken to reduce these risks. Those who neglect to do this, like Fastrac Profiles, and who don't provide a safe system of work put workers at serious risk. They are clearly failing to comply with the required standard. I would like to thank the member of the public who brought this to our attention because the situation had the potential to lead to serious or fatal injuries for both men."

Nationwide Platforms expands apprenticeship scheme

UK-based Nationwide Platforms is expanding its range of apprenticeship schemes and adding to the five apprentices that it currently employs in functions as diverse as workshop engineers, finance, training and HR.

The latest opportunities have been made available through the Hire Association of Europe's (HAE) Shared Apprenticeship Scheme, with delegates placed in hire desk controller roles and encouraged to develop customer service skills and operational knowledge, whilst also completing classroom training with the industry association. The company will also shortly start recruiting its latest wave of engineering apprentices to its annual three year programme, now in its 16th year. Operations director Peter Douglas said: "As market leader in our field we feel that it's very important to introduce young and talented people into our industry, helping to introduce, support and develop new success into our business and sector for years to come."



Some of the team at Scotland's - Some of the first apprentices in the HAE Shared Apprenticeship scheme

Liebherr GB in top 100 UK employers

Liebherr Great Britain was 96th in the Sunday Times 100 best companies to work for in the UK for 2012. The chart is compiled based on a number of factors rated by each entrants' employees.



A group of Liebherr apprentices



IPAF is trialing an online version of its PAL theory training

Online operator theory

The International Powered Access Federation has announced that 1,040 operators have completed the theory part of its training programme online, in a trial run by US rental company NES.

After having completed the training, delegates still had to take the supervised theory test at an IPAF accredited centre and then complete the practical part of the programme in order to qualify for a PAL card/licence. 1,000 of those completing the online training passed the theory test and qualified for cards. NES now plans to trial the programme with customers, with the written test and practical session taking place in Florida this month.

The move follows the launch of Genie's Lift Pro programme at the Rental show in Las Vegas in February. Its programme also allows students to take the test online before heading to an approved training centre for the practical training and test.

Who trained him then?

Two men trying to get a heavy blower unit onto or off the roof of this food store in La Jolla California. The lifting device? A fully extended 19ft scissor elevator type lift with a plank across its guardrails. So many things could have gone wrong with this, all for the want of the right tool for the job.

