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A quarter million PAL



IPAF issued its 250,000th PAL Card (Powered Access Licence), in early September.

IPAF managing director, Tim Whiteman, announced the achievement at the Professional Development Seminar for IPAF instructors in mid-September. "A quarter million people have taken the time to get trained, which makes the industry safer," said Whiteman. "But there are at least a million more to be trained."

The PAL Card is awarded to people who successfully complete training on powered access equipment. A PAL Card is valid for five years and shows the equipment categories that the holder has been trained to operate. More than 200,000 people currently hold a valid PAL Card.

The IPAF training programme started in 1992 in the UK and is approved by the Major Contractors Group. Operators holding an IPAF PAL Card are welcomed on any MCG site.

The IPAF PAL Card is widely recognised as proof of platform operator training, including on MCG sites.

All set for telehandlers with integrated platforms

The first IPAF training course for telehandlers with integrated platforms was successfully completed in August by two employees of Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd. They were then issued with the first PAL Cards for the Telehandler Platform - Integrated (TPI) category.

"The course is aimed at experienced and certified telehandler operators who may need to operate access platform attachments from the basket rather than from the cab of the telehandler," said Peter Grant of Merlo UK. Grant chairs the IPAF Telehandler Committee and has been working closely with IPAF in developing this course.

Grant explained, "Basic working platforms, without any controls, are still widely in use in the UK, although they have been designated as 'inappropriate' by the HSE for use on telehandlers capable of lifting above six metres. Many telehandler manufacturers now offer fully integrated platform attachments, complying with the requirements of EN 280. The telehandler/platform combination becomes, in effect, a mobile

elevating work platform and requires additional training as most, if not all of the subject matter is not covered by, standard telehandler operating courses."

The first one-day course, covering theory and practical on-site training, was given by Brian Parker of Peter Hird Ltd, an IPAF senior instructor and member of the IPAF Training



The first test course for telehandlers with integrated platforms was successfully completed at the Taylor Woodrow Western Harbour site in Edinburgh.

Committee. The two trainees, Alan Rae and Ryan McCue, were able to test the telehandler to its full lifting height of 25 metres at the site with high rise apartments.

"At first we thought there was too much emphasis on the MEWP side of things," said veteran telehandler driver Rae. "But after the practical training we both now feel completely confident in the machine - all the way up to the full height."

Instructors gather at PDS

More than 150 instructors attended the IPAF Professional Development Seminar (PDS) on 14 September in Manchester.

"The PDS is dedicated to continuing professional development," said Rupert Douglas-Jones, IPAF

see IPAF doing. We also had some very good lectures."

IPAF technical officer Gil Male gave a to-the-point update of the EN 280 revisions. Consultant Tim Watson examined ground bearing pressures and Ian Simpson from



international training manager. "It is a consultation process with instructors where they can give input on what they would like to

the HSE Safety Unit looked into causes of accidents investigated by the HSE.

When the auditor knocks

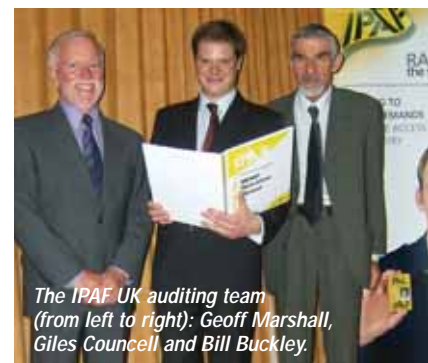
IPAF is stepping up its auditing process internationally to ensure that training is delivered to high standards on a consistent basis around the world.

"One of the main reasons why IPAF training is popular is that you can go to any training centre and the training programme will be the same," says IPAF senior auditor Giles Councill. "The only way we can guarantee that training is delivered to high standards is by stringent audit procedures."

There are two types of audits: annual surveillance visits and unannounced visits. IPAF-approved training centres receive a surveillance visit each year. This involves a review of the training facilities and identification of any corrective action needed. The auditor also examines the training paperwork and instructors' records to verify compliance with the documented training centre requirements. Unannounced visits are selected at random by the IPAF audit team from the dates and locations provided through the IPAF online application system. The auditor assesses the day's training session, which includes both theory and practical sessions.

Giles Councill, Bill Buckley and Geoff Marshall form the mainstay of the UK audit team. IPAF also has auditors stationed in North America and Italy, and is currently recruiting a couple more for Germany and the Netherlands.

"The IPAF system is designed to be easy to follow," says Councill. "Training centres that follow the procedures outlined in the operations manual should have no problems with audits. These audits are seen as a way of providing guidance, enabling the training centres to follow set procedures that help them deliver a high level of service."



The IPAF UK auditing team (from left to right): Geoff Marshall, Giles Councill and Bill Buckley.



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