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HSE investigating MEWP use on site



launch of IPAF's MEWPs for Managers course and provided members with a meeting point to discuss safety issues and to network."

The management of aerial lifts on site is under scrutiny

The UK Health & Safety Executive's Construction Division is investigating the way aerial work platforms are being used and managed on construction sites.

C&a

In a document distributed to inspectors and shared with IPAF, the HSE notes that "the use of powered access to provide a safe means of working at height has grown massively and this has reduced accidents". However, the HSE also notes that accidents do occur and it is aiming to raise awareness of the need for qualified management to oversee the use of powered access and in particular aerial work platforms on site in order to help further reduce accidents. HSE inspectors are being asked to select sites

with "substantial use of aerial lifts", which may include but are not restricted to steel erection, net fixing, fire protection installation or electrical work. Inspectors are then urged to assess the way the platforms are managed on site using nine key points. Priorities identified include: the selection of the lift type, risk assessment, uptake of the IPAF MEWPs for Managers course, familiarisation procedures, and rescue planning.

A copy of the document is available at www.ipaf.org/news

UKCG considers mandating PAL + training

The UK Contractors Group (UKCG) is considering a move to mandate PAL + training for safety netters and steel erectors and their associated trades on member sites from July 1st. The proposed measure is part of the UKCG's policy to address the risk of entrapment while using aerial lifts. At a meeting of the UKCG Health and Safety Sub-Group, it was agreed that a note be sent to the supply chains with the aim of consulting members and seeking feedback on the intention to mandate PAL+.

The note states that: "The UKCG recognise that there are now a wide variety of anti-entrapment devices available on the market, and that these can be selected to suit both the machines and the work tasks being carried out. It is also recognised that such devices are not, on their own, a solution to entrapment, but along with adequate planning and competent operators, play a significant and essential part in reducing the risks of entrapment."

The feedback is now being assessed. The UKCG already encourages safety

net riggers, steel erectors and their associated trades working on UKCG sites to hold an IPAF PAL + qualification following a decision made last year.

More information on PAL + can be found at www.ipaf.org/palplus



Valuable statistics on the rental market

The worldwide aerial work platform rental fleet size is estimated at 950,000 units. What is the industry investing in and where are the new growth sectors? Give your business strategy and decisions a push with the latest IPAF Powered Access Rental Market Reports 2013 for Europe and the USA. Order online at www.ipaf.org/reports

IPAF celebrated its 30th

anniversary during the recent **IPAF** Summit and International Awards for Powered Access (IAPAs) at the end of March in Miami, Florida, USA. More news on the access event of the year is at www.iapa-summit.info The IPAF Summit and IAPAs 2014 will be held in the UK.



Save the PDS dates

The IPAF Professional Development Seminars (PDS) for instructors and training centres will be held on 24th September in the North of the UK and on 3rd December in the South of the UK.

The PDS in the North will be held at the Metro Centre Marriott Hotel, Tyne & Wear NE11 9XF. IPAF has agreed special room rates with the hotel, valid until 31st July.

The PDS in the South will be held at the De Vere Milton Hill House, Oxfordshire OX13 6AF. IPAF has agreed a special room rate with the Milton Hill House, valid until 11th November.

Details are at www.ipaf.org/events

IPAF focus