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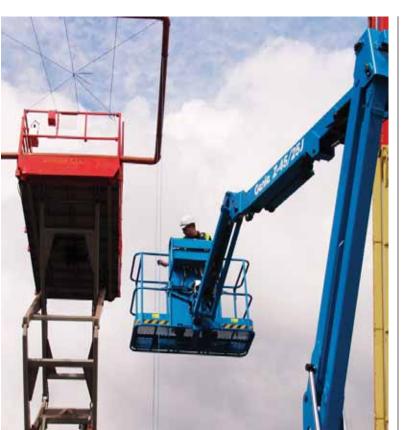
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# **UKCG makes PAL+** training mandator

The UK Contractors Group (UKCG) will make it compulsory for net riggers, steel erectors and all associated employees who work on UKCG sites to hold an IPAF PAL+ or CPCS competent operator certification from October 31st as part of its policy to address the risk of entrapment when using aerial work platforms.

It has also highlighted guidance from the Strategic Forum for Construction Plant Safety Group publication Avoiding Trapping/Crushing Injuries to People in the Platform and IPAF's

Guidance on Selection of Anti-Entrapment Devices for MEWPs, available for download at www.ipaf.org.

The UKCG is also consulting with a view to extending the requirement for IPAF PAL+ or CPCS competent operator certification to other trades. More information on IPAF's one day category-specific PAL+ training courses which have been designed for operators working in higher risk or challenging environments, can be found at www.ipaf.org/palplus.

# IPAF welcomes CPA statement

IPAF has welcomed the letter issued by the Construction Plant-hire Association's Tower Crane interest group, clearly stating that tower cranes are not suitable for lifting people for entertainment purposes.

The CPA letter says: "The use of tower cranes for lifting persons at work is permitted by the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) only 'in exceptional circumstances, when it is not practicable to gain access by less hazardous means'. BS 7121-1:2006 gives detailed advice on planning and carrying out such operations."

IPAF chief executive Tim Whiteman said: "IPAF has repeatedly highlighted its position that purpose-built powered access equipment is an infinitely safer and more precise method of providing access for temporary work at height. We welcome the CPA statement and remind operators and managers that cranes should be used for lifting loads, not people."

#### **IPAF** focus

# **CITB** grants

IPAF's UK member companies which are levy payers and eligible for the CITB Grants Scheme may be able to claim significantly more than the levy they paid in as the payments have significantly increased (e.g. from £17.50 to £50).

It may also be possible to claim grants for IPAF training completed by their employees. As a further incentive to participate, there is a supplementary payment programme of approximately 22 percent for

anyone who participates in the scheme.

IPAF estimates that close to 90 of its UK member companies could benefit from the scheme and, as an added IPAF member service, a dedicated training advisor from CITB-ConstructionSkills can provide support in the creation and provision of businessrelated training.

IPAF levy paying members may also apply for and benefit from several other grants that are available. Details can be found at www.ipaf.org/news.

Thinking Outside the Basket

The Europlatform access rental conference on the theme of "Thinking Outside the Basket" will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on the 3rd October.

Pierre Boels, chief executive of Netherlands-based Boels Rental, will give the keynote address and share his company's experience of opening up rental operations in new countries. Other confirmed speakers are Soren



Rosenkrands, chief operating officer of Riwal, who will speak on the topic of managing big self-propelled booms, and Michael Rohmeder, European accounts manager at Ritchie Bros, who will examine the impact of new engine regulations on asset values. Also on the panel of speakers are Andy Studdert, chief executive of US-based NES Rentals, Mustafa Bilgin, owner of İstanbul Vinç, Serkan Acar, general manager of Acarlar Makine and Faruk Aksoy, secretary-general of IMDER and ISDER.

The conference will be preceded by an evening networking reception on the 2nd October. Early bird conference rates are available until the 9th September.

## **IPAF** considers special precautions for large lifts

The IPAF UK Country Council will meet on September 19th in Reading to discuss a report by the working group which was set up in May to look at whether additional guidance is needed for the use of larger and more complex aerial lifts. The working group which first met at Vertikal Days is considering whether additional training should be recommended or required for very large lifts, including booms and scissor lifts.

### **IPAF** events in September

#### Don't miss these IPAF events in September:

19th September: West London Regional Meeting in Reading 24th September: Professional Development Seminar (North) in

Gateshead, Tyne & Wear

Full details at www.ipaf.org/events