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Hitting the 500,

IPAF has announced that there are now half a million valid PAL Cards (Powered Access Licences) worldwide.

"This is a tremendous success for IPAF members," said IPAF chief executive Tim Whiteman. "Our members created and launched the operator training programme in 1991, not because the law mandated it, but because they had a vision of a safe and professional industry. IPAF manages the programme on behalf of its members and the income is re-invested in the training programme and other safety initiatives, such as the Clunk Click harness campaign, the spreader pads campaign and accident reporting project."

"IPAF estimates that there are about 950,000 aerial work platforms in the rental fleet worldwide and we have set a goal of reaching a million valid PAL Cards by 2017. We congratulate our members on this achievement and look forward to working with them to keep the industry safe through trained operators."

A valid PAL Card is international proof that the card holder has been trained to operate powered access equipment safely and effectively and is valid for five years. There are currently 615 IPAF-approved training centres in 28 countries.

Manufacturers stress safe design

Members of the IPAF Manufacturers' Technical Committee have issued a statement confirming the safe design of aerial work platforms. The statement was prepared in response to a letter from a major UK contractor which raised concerns "about the safety of this type of work equipment" and requested "additional confirmation as to the safety of all equipment being brought onto site".

The statement can be viewed in the Publications/Technical Guidance section of: www.ipaf.org

IPAF Summit speakers confirmed

The IPAF Summit 2014 will address topics ranging from how best practice in the use of powered access equipment can be applied on job sites, to accident statistics and how they compare with other sectors such as aviation.



Confirmed speakers include Dave Smith of the UK Contractors

Group/Wates Construction and David Miller, deputy chief inspector of Air Accidents at the UK's Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB). Smith will discuss how contractors work to keep aerial work platform use safe and what they expect of their suppliers and Miller will explain how the AAIB investigates air accidents and compiles accident statistics. Bill Plummer and Fred Bratman of United Rentals will discuss how the access rental industry can best connect with investors and bankers.

Attendance at the IPAF Summit is free of charge. Register at: www.iapa-summit.info

IPAF focus

Working at height

HSE simplifies work at height guidance

IPAF has welcomed the UK Health & Safety Executive's (HSE) simplified quidance on work at height:

INDG401: Working at height -A brief guide

INDG455: Safe use of ladders and stepladders - A brief quide

The guidance was produced following the Lofstedt report recommending clearer and simpler quidance on the requirements of the Work at Height Regulations. The regulations themselves remain unchanged.

IPAF technical officer Chris Wraith said: "The new guidance is an improvement on the previous version from 2006 in that the language has been simplified. Another more relevant document for aerial work platforms is also in the final stages of review by the HSE: CIS 58 The selection, management and use of mobile elevating work platforms. We hope that this document will follow the same principles for the language used."

The new HSE guidance can be found via links on the Resources/Reference Guides section of www.ipaf.org



The shortlist for this year's International Awards for Powered Access (IAPAs) has been revealed with the winners scheduled to be announced at the dinner and awards ceremony on 3rd April at the Beaumont Estate Hotel in Windsor. More than 100 entries were received for the 12 award categories, and the independent judging panel spent more than a day considering them. The panel consists of Andries Schouten - HDW Nederland/Gunco, Craig Paylor - National Truck Body Solutions of USA, George Landsberg - South African distributor Goscor Hi-Reach, Gerhard Hillebrand - IPAF Italy and Steve Couling - Versalift UK.

To book your place for the IPAF Summit and IAPAs awards visit: www.iapa-summit.info



(L-R) George Landsberg, Andries Schouten, Gerhard Hillebrand and Steve Couling

Rental market research underway

IPAF's annual Powered Access Rental Market Reports are nearing completion and will be available to order in April. Watch for details at www.ipaf.org/reports

IPAF drives height safety forward

IPAF will be advancing safety, best practice and competency at The Health & Safety Event from 11th to 13th March at the NEC Birmingham, as part of the Access Industry Forum (AIF).

For more details visit: www.ipaf.org/events