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# SAEMA: the façade access association

The Specialist Access Engineering and Maintenance Association (SAEMA) is a trade body dedicated to raising standards in both the permanent and temporary facade access industry. These include suspended platforms, building mounted boom lifts and other specialist equipment. This is the first of an occasional news page highlighting its activities and the issues affecting the industry.



**SPECIALIST ACCESS ENGINEERING  
& MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATION**

The association works closely with other specialist and standards-setting bodies in the development of national and international standards and is actively engaged in advancing the height safety agenda.

Its member companies operate in the following three market sectors:

- **Permanently installed access systems.** These systems are installed at the construction stage of a project as an integral part of the build, providing a permanent means of access for cleaning and light duty facade maintenance work during the lifetime of the building or structure.
- **Temporarily installed access systems.** These systems provide safe access to the façade during the construction phase, or when major refurbishment and replacement works are being undertaken.
- **Maintenance of façade access systems.** Finally, there are a number of SAEMA members who focus exclusively on the maintenance of specialist access equipment and building maintenance units (BMU's), together with associated equipment, for the ongoing maintenance of buildings - including cleaning and minor repairs.

The equipment designed and supplied by SAEMA members must comply with all current legislation

and any work must conform to the latest industry standards and guidance to satisfy stringent requirements for safety, quality and performance. The installation must also be accompanied by all statutory documentation including testing, operating and maintenance manuals.

### Duty holder's seminar

SAEMA has developed a seminar for duty holders designed to inform and educate anyone responsible for specifying, managing and maintaining either temporary or permanent façade access systems - for example, architects, civil and structural engineers, facilities managers, health and safety professionals, consultants and cleaning companies.

Trevor Fennell, the association's secretary, said: "On the occasions when this new presentation has been delivered, the feedback from attendees has been extremely positive. It's also been clear that many duty holders are either confused by, or are not fully aware, of their legal responsibilities, and that is a situation fraught with risk."

### New training courses

SAEMA has also introduced three new training courses.

The 'Permanently Installed Cradle Tester and Examiner Course' is aimed at managers and supervisors of SAEMA member companies, but also available to anyone involved in façade access. It covers the



*Permanent installation  
in progress in London*

latest regulations, standards and guidance, as well as the essential points of BMU safety.

The 'SAEMA/CITB Hydraulic Course' is intended to provide insights and information about the latest hydraulic systems that are now being used to power the movement and control of the components and assemblies in the latest BMUs.

The 'SAEMA/CITB Temporarily Installed Cradle Rigger Course' is intended primarily for managers, supervisors and riggers of both SAEMA members and interested third parties. It includes both classroom and practical sessions and is held at the CITB training centre in Bircham Newton. Upon successful completion, candidates can elect to complete an NVQ in cradle rigging.

Fennell said: "The aim of SAEMA members is to provide facade access systems that perform correctly whilst meeting the relevant standards of the industry, and that operatives using the equipment are provided with a safe place of work."

"When SAEMA members become involved in the late planning stages of many projects, they often find that the access consultants - employed by the client - are specifying complex engineering designs for the facade access equipment, and are expecting it to be installed in roof spaces that are very restricted in both roof loading capacity and physical size."

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*A temporary cradle  
installation in  
Mastrick Land Court,  
Aberdeen*