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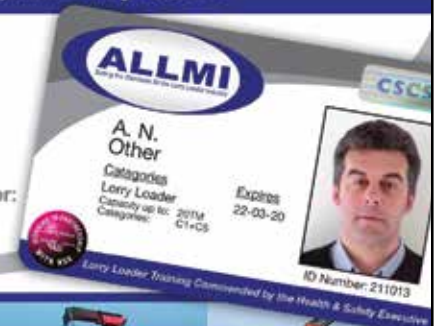
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Promoting podium safety in 2017

Throughout 2017, PASMA will be making buyers, owners and users of low-level work platforms - commonly referred to as pulpits and podiums - aware of the introduction of a new product standard, BS 8620:2016.

Designs for low-level work platforms have previously been developed in the absence of a formal standard, and whilst the majority provide a safe solution to low-level access, there were some aspects that were able to be improved by relevant and specific design criteria which the Publicly Available Specification, PAS 250 first introduced in 2012. With PAS 250 now converted to BS 8620 by the British Standards Institution (BSI), safety and performance criteria have been further enhanced with a dimensional change to side protection and modifications to specific tests.

PASMA is quick to point out that the conversion of PAS 250 to a full British standard does not mean that existing PAS 250 compliant low-level work platforms are now obsolete.

Technical committee chairman John Darby said: "You can continue to employ PAS 250 type-approved podiums and there is no necessity to change product immediately. You can introduce the upgrade when the time comes for replacement. BS 8620 compliant products should start to become available from April and we are encouraging users to update their procurement policies accordingly to guarantee that they are purchasing equipment that meets the very latest criteria for strength, access, stability and rigidity."

The new standard has industry-wide backing. The steering group which first contributed to its development includes the Association of British Certification Bodies, the Health and



Safety Executive, Hire Association Europe, the Ladder Association, PASMA and BuildUK.

BSI publishing manager for built environment James Wilson said: "BSI acknowledges the work that PASMA and other stakeholders have completed towards the conversion

of PAS 250 to a full British standard. Its publication should ensure wider recognition of the product standard for low-level platforms."

To assist purchasers and users, PASMA has introduced a fact sheet and FAQ section on its website www.pasma.co.uk/bs8620

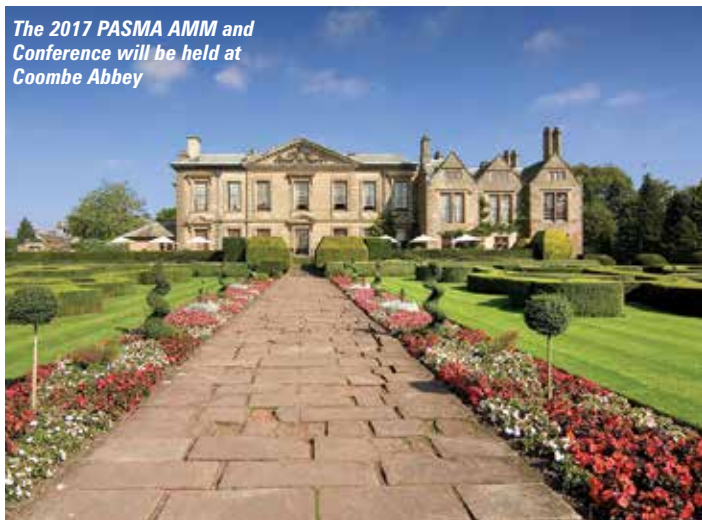
Upcoming event dates

As part of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), PASMA will be a contributor to the Safety Dialogue Theatre at the upcoming Health & Safety Event at the NEC in Birmingham on 21st to 23rd March. The theme of the event will be 'Three days to save a life'.



As a member organisation of the AIF, the association will also be exhibiting at this year's Safety & Health Expo at ExCeL, London from 20th to 22nd June. PASMA representatives will be on hand to discuss the latest standards, guidance and safety-related products alongside a number of associations. Finally, PASMA has announced that this year's Members' Conference and Annual Members' Meeting will take place at Coombe Abbey in Coventry from 6th to 7th July. More information will be posted on the PASMA website shortly, but anyone wanting to register their interest in attending or requiring more details about what's planned, should contact gary.chudleigh@pasma.co.uk.

The 2017 PASMA AMM and Conference will be held at Coombe Abbey



Record breaking year

In 2016, PASMA issued a record breaking 73,000 training cards for a variety of industry standard courses. These included Work at Height Essentials, Towers for Users and Towers on Stairs.

Training committee chairman John McNeilly said: "These remarkable numbers only serve to reinforce PASMA's position as the principal provider of what is now firmly established as the definitive industry standard for mobile access tower training, both in the UK and increasingly overseas. For an overwhelming number of organisations no other form of training, and therefore demonstration of competency, is acceptable. It reflects great credit on the work of PASMA training centres and their instructors, and, of course, on those companies and individuals committed to height safety and keeping people safe."



For details of PASMA standards, guidance and training, including free PocketCards and posters, visit: www.pasma.co.uk