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New audit regime for UK rental members

IPAF has announced a new more stringent vetting and auditing process for UK rental company members, following a resolution of IPAF's UK Country Council that was ratified at the federation's annual general meeting earlier this year.

From September all IPAF's current and prospective rental company members will begin the process of submitting to the new annual audit procedure and on successful completion of the process will be accorded IPAF Rental+ status. The accreditation will be maintained through annual onsite audits. The existing Rental+ scheme will be modified to include bronze, silver or gold accreditation, dependent on meeting key criteria during the audit process. IPAF Rental + also automatically includes the Safety Schemes In Procurement (SSIP) status under the new system.

Chief executive Tim Whiteman said: "This is a really positive evolution of IPAF membership for rental firms in the UK. It is important to note that the change was driven from within. It reflects our members' desire that end users should have the utmost confidence that using an IPAF member company is the best guarantee of receiving the highest possible levels of safety, expertise and customer service."

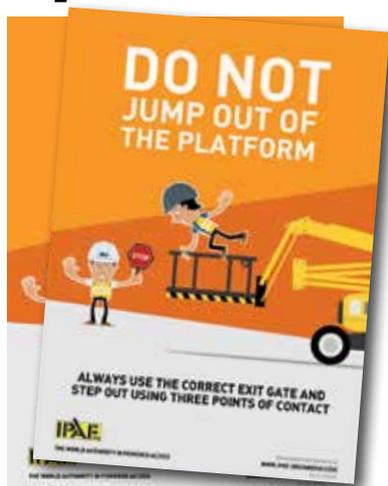
The new audit regime will begin this year, with existing rental members having until September 2019 to comply. The audit is designed to provide a management tool to signpost where and how businesses can improve their health & safety, quality and environmental performance, add recognised value and reduce time and cost spent completing other pre-qualifying questionnaires. It also supports or leads to ISO9001, 14001 and 18001 certification. The IPAF Rental+ accreditation remains open to IPAF members internationally.



IPAF's UK auditors will roll out the new accreditation regime from September 2017.

More Andy Access posters

Three new posters in the Andy Access safety series are now available: "Danger, keep well clear", "Do not jump out of the platform" and "Register pre-owned machines". The posters are available to download now in all main IPAF languages at www.ipaf.org/andyaccess



RoSPA Guardian Angel Award presentation

IPAF technical & safety executive Chris Wraith has received his Guardian Angel award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for his work in raising safety standards and highlighting risk in the powered access industry. (See P65 of C&A June).

He has also confirmed that after six years with IPAF, he takes up his new career as an independent consultant in August. "I have enormously enjoyed the challenge of being IPAF's technical & safety executive and believe we have taken important steps to improve safety worldwide," said Wraith.

"Chris has done excellent work for IPAF and the industry in his current role and has been instrumental in important initiatives, we look forward to continuing to work with him as a consultant," added Tim Whiteman.



Chris Wraith with his RoSPA Guardian Angel Award

MOT exemptions and EU truck cartel

The most recent meeting of IPAF's Vehicle Mounted Manufacturers Technical Committee discussed the UK's Department for Transport's proposal to remove the larger truck mounted lift exemption from EU Regulation 45/2014 - periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and trailers - with the exemption only retained for mobile cranes, as they spend a limited time on public roads, and cannot realistically fit inside a typical MOT testing station. It was pointed out many vehicle mounted aerial lifts face the same issues, often remaining on site for months or even years, or that a short term hire can be extended to several weeks - meeting MOT renewal/expiry dates could therefore be an issue.

The group discussed joining the voluntary scheme that the Construction Plant-Hire Association has been working on for cranes, dependant on legislation, which is expected to come into force in May 2018. It was pointed out that Italy has a compulsory annual inspection for both the vehicle and the platform mounted on the back, either by a state or private test station, while Germany has a different regime again. The committee also raised the potential requirement for a seven or 10 year major inspection standard or guidance, but felt that the current IPAF Guidance for Major Inspections of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms provides sufficient guidance.

The European Truck Manufacturers Cartel and the likelihood of members receiving compensation following the action brought by the European Commission was also discussed. Total fines have reached €2.9 billion, the largest ever imposed by the EU for a case of this nature. The next meeting will be held on 8th September at Platformers' Days in Germany.

