

# Readers Letters



## Access problems to construction sites

Dear Leigh

I would like to draw your attention to a problem that many Access firms are facing. The MCG (now Build UK) is enforcing a situation where no-one is allowed on their sites that does not have CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) cards. This is being enforced at the same time as that very system has hit a brick wall. IPAF cards are not being accepted and we have now had situations whereby engineers, surveyors and even drivers are being refused access to site.

I naively believed that IPAF had this sorted, and contacting CSCS is worse than a joke as they say that there are no cards available that cover our guys unless they have an NVQ!!!!

Can you raise this issue or help in any way? I know you have contacts that at least may be able to clarify the situation. We pay the tax/levy but can get NO help in resolving this. I'm starting to get desperate!!!

We decided that as this was only one of several communications we received we would not publish the name of this particular correspondent.

This was one of several communications over the past month or two concerning the issue of staff gaining access to Build UK - previously UK Contractors Group/MCG - sites due to the lack of a CSCS card which are now reserved exclusively for specific construction skills - plumber, bricklayer, carpenter etc... If they are then to use an aerial lift they also need an IPAF PAL card, but in several cases a service engineer or delivery driver with a PAL card has been refused entry.

*Construction Skills previously offered the Construction Related Occupation (CRO) card but has withdrawn it after having decided to focus purely on construction skills. Build UK made the following statement: "The CLC decision and card schemes carrying the CSCS logo both relate to construction occupations only. It is recognised that due to the diverse nature of construction projects, there are occasions where a person may need to access site to perform a non-construction occupation or activity e.g. delivery of materials to site, catering staff, security guards, visitors etc and it is not expected that these individuals will carry a CSCS card. They may however still need to provide evidence that they can carry out their task safely. They may also require a separate risk assessment and additional supervision." This final aspect could easily be satisfied with a PAL or PASMA card, both of which are approved by CSCS, while ALMI and CISRS/NASC cards can be ordered with a CSCS logo. A bulleting covering this subject is available on <https://builduk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Training-Standard-July-2017.pdf>*

Ed

## Can't wait

*We could not help ourselves including this letter which was among several dozen new subscription requests received last month.*

To the Vertikal Press

Please find cheque number xxxxxx enclosed for a subscription to your magazine 'Cranes & Access'. I cannot keep waiting for friends to send me their copies. Many thanks

*If you want to make sure you get a copy every month - or just fancy supporting our efforts a form can be found on page: 75*

*The following letter was received from Paul Adorian, past managing director of IPAF, owner of the industry's notified body PAC and one of the first pioneers of the powered access industry in the UK at John Laing's EPL. His wife Ruth was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease almost 10 years ago and given three years to live. She has not only defied all the odds but continues to work in spite of the fact that she is almost completely paralysed. The couple formed a charity AID to push for proper standards for disabled facilities in hotels and public buildings after having experienced the appalling and misguided and half-hearted efforts that most establishments had made to comply with current regulations that provide very little guidance to what is really needed. They have also been supporting some ground-breaking research into a new drug that is showing extraordinary promise to helping those suffering from a wide variety of neuro-related diseases, although sadly it is too late to provide significant help for Ruth Adorian. He is asking for the industry's help in raising £1 million to support the human trials, assuming that the current trials with mice conclude as positively as it looks. The charity can be contacted via [www.disabledday.org](http://www.disabledday.org) or through the Vertikal Press.*

## A charity for access

Dear Leigh,

The Association for the Independence of Disabled People was created as a direct result of founder and chairman, Ruth Adorian, being diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in 2007. This mind-blowing diagnosis was finally confirmed after 12 months of tests and visits to Neurologists, resulting in the verdict: "if you are lucky, your life expectancy is three years". Ruth's response was a very blunt "We'll see about that."

This little charity now trading as AID is blossoming into an organisation determined to help disabled people in a number of ways. We wish to improve essential facilities in a variety of areas where the needs of disabled people have not been met, despite regulations which authorities either fail to enforce or in all too many cases completely ignore. As an example of the problems frequently encountered by seriously disabled people, the provision of bathroom and toilet facilities in hotels and other buildings leaves much to be desired. Their layout is of critical concern to such people but all too often the WC is placed in a corner, or up against a bath or hand wash basin, preventing carers to position themselves on either side of the disabled person.

This problem has been addressed by AID over the past few years and following a meeting with the Minister of Housing and lengthy correspondence. BSI has published a revision of the Building Regulations with proposals for a suitable layout of bathrooms and toilets to accommodate the needs of the seriously disabled.

The current major project of AID, comes from our involvement with Lancaster University's research into a new drug, Liraglutide, identified by professor Christian Holscher to help sufferers of Parkinson's and Motor Neurone Disease. We have already helped raise funds to cover the cost of a pre-clinical trial with mice - which is due to conclude this month and which has already shown remarkable potential to help those suffering from Parkinson's. Assuming that this trial ends as expected, there will be a requirement to raise a further £1 million to ensure that a full clinical trial on humans can follow. The drug has the potential to help a wide range of people suffering with neuro related diseases, including Alzheimer's.

The initial purpose of AID is to improve access for disabled people and we feel that there is a very strong psychological link for the word access, which means so much to disabled people and so much to those who need to work off the ground. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the powered access industry took on board the idea of enabling access for the disabled by donating funds to support this important drug trial. If successful, it will improve the lifestyle of some 90,000 people suffering from MND/ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis as known in the USA) worldwide.

The access industry has enjoyed some wonderful success. This drug trial presents an equally wonderful opportunity for an industry to contribute the funds that could bring such welcome relief to so many people around the world.

Please help us to raise the funds required for the full clinical trial of this incredible drug.

Paul Adorian

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Dear Leigh

As promised the following is an obituary to my friend and colleague Bill Murray. As you know we will be organising a memorial to celebrate his life in Uxbridge on September 2nd.

Bill Murray, who died on 19 June at the age of 87, was my closest friend in the Crane Industry. We first met in 1962 when he joined Coles Cranes as an Export Sales Executive, where I had already served five years. Bill brought with him a lot of experience from a varied career before then. Born in Scotland (he never lost his soft brogue), he followed his schooling with a five year engineering apprenticeship with Hendersons of Aberdeen. He then joined the Merchant Navy and served as a junior engineering officer on troopships sailing to the Far East, travelling between Kobe and Pusan during the Korean War. Following that he worked for the Elder Dempster Shipping Line travelling to and from West Africa. In 1955 he went out to India as an engineer on Tea Plantations for three years, returning briefly to UK in 1957 after marrying his wife, Liz, he then moved to another assignment in Ceylon with Walker & Son. The couple finally came back to the UK in 1961.

Bill spent most of his selling days for Coles in Scandinavia, but he volunteered to help me out on a very long trip to Poland in 1963, a favour I have never forgotten. Trips of a month were quite usual for us married export salesman (a long suffering wife was an essential), but this would have been two months for me but for Bill, and this cemented our friendship. After I left Coles in 1965, Bill added Poland to his portfolio. By the time that I returned to the Steel Group in 1970, Bill had moved to the Crane and Machinery Services, the used equipment division of Coles, serving as manager up until the Acrow group collapse in 1984. He then set up on his own and again we co-operated when I had established my small crane and excavator agency in Poland. When lack of money in the immediate post-Communist era made sales of new equipment very difficult, finding a market

outside of Poland for used Coles cranes was a life-saver for me, thanks to Bill.

Bill was never a high pressure salesman, but he gained the confidence of his many customers with a blend of charm and wit, backed by his wide experience.

He will always be particularly remembered for his wonderful sense of humour - as a young man he has been known to walk across the road on his hands! Right up until weeks before his death, despite failing health, he continued to send out witty e-mails to his many friends. An ex-Rugby Union player, he was a keen fan, and, after Scotland or Wales (the land of my fathers) had played in the Six Nations, it was a matter of rivalry between us as to who would pick up the phone first to discuss the match. He had an amazing laid-back philosophical attitude to life which I often envied. He will be sorely missed by wife Liz, daughter Jane and son Michael, and by many others too.

Yours

Dick Lloyd



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