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Government ends MOT exemption

The UK Government will end of the current exemption for HGV mounted aerial work platforms from annual MOT inspections on May 20th next year. After this date aerial lifts up to 44 tonnes GVW will be required to undertake road worthiness inspections at an approved MOT inspection site. The change will also affect the requirement for these vehicles to be submitted to Whole Vehicle Type Approval before being registered for the first time.

Larger platforms which come under STGO rules will continue to be exempt for practical reasons. IPAF was a key respondent in the initial consultation, highlighting issues and potential problems concerning the proposal and its implementation. Among the concerns raised was the practicality of testing machines annually to comply with MOT expiry and renewal dates when they might be out on a long-term rental.

IPAF technical and safety officer Rupert Douglas-Jones said:

"We are continuing to work with the Department for Transport to interpret the proposed lifting of the MOT exemption and to minimise the impact for owners and operators. As soon as further information is available on the planned approach and timing for bringing these vehicles into testing we will let members know. There may be some flexibility in the way the changes are applied and phased in to minimise disruption to normal business operations. We will continue to convey concerns and suggested solutions."



Rupert Douglas-Jones

7 million platforms

During a speech at last month's Europlatform event in Poland, Haulotte chairman Pierre Saubot said that he expects the global population of self-propelled aerial work platforms to grow to seven million machines over the next 20 years, up from 1.25 million today. Saubot insisted the target is achievable if manufacturers, rental companies and regulatory bodies work together to offer a safe and convenient product that meets end users' requirements at a cost they can afford.

Other highlights included Phil Godding and Ignacy Puzkiewicz of JLG, discussing new technologies such as robotics and machines that allow technicians to carry out tasks remotely from the ground. Rupert Douglas-Jones presenting the latest Fatal Injury Rate statistics and analysis, and the importance of IPAF's Accident Reporting and Incident Database to reducing common causes of accidents and fatalities.

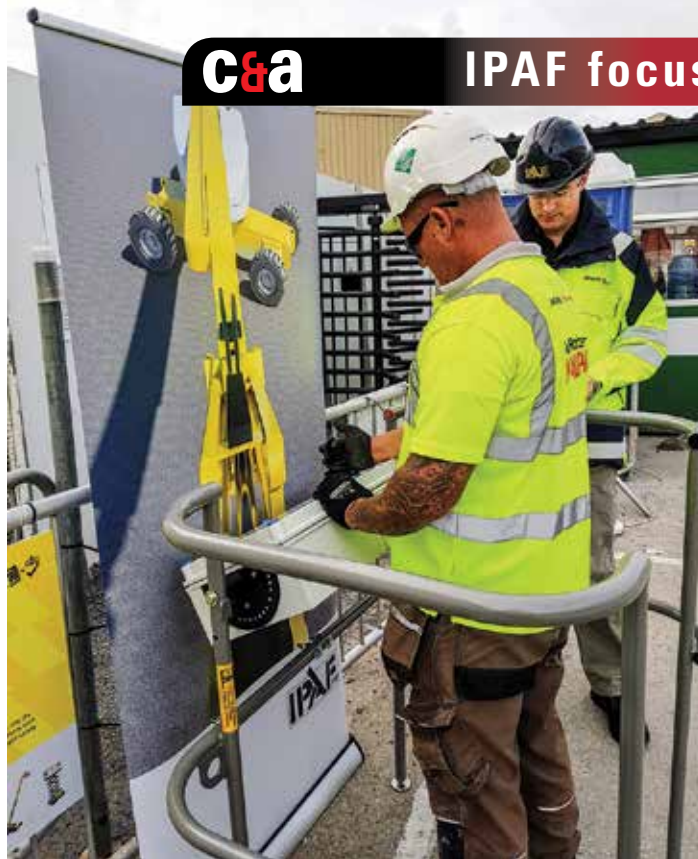


Pierre Saubot

Martin Vöggtli of Skyworker, Switzerland, spoke on the importance for the industry to reduce its carbon footprint by developing more hybrid and electric machines, while Jim Colvin of Serious Labs spoke Virtual and Augmented Reality applications in training. Next years' Europlatform will be held in Belfast, on 11 October 2018.

IPAF PDS programme

The next IPAF Professional Development Seminars kick off in Gateshead, UK on 18th October and will be followed by a southern event in Abingdon, on 7th November. Other seminars are scheduled in the Middle East and India this autumn and early 2018 for other countries. The seminars are intended to ensure instructors, auditors and staff are kept up to date on the latest legislation, safety and training information.



Operator controls research hits the road

Around 100 people, have taken the Which Way is Up? test at three job sites in the UK, as part of the research into aerial work platform control layout. They included those who had never operated a platform, to highly experienced operators. If you would like a visit from the controls test rig or know a building site, event or training location where useful data could be gathered, please email rupert.douglas-jones@ipaf.org

UK market general manager

IPAF has appointed Richard Whiting as UK market general manager, he joins the organisation from the Hire Association Europe where he has been commercial manager since 2012. He previously worked with Building Software, Unisys and HSBC in training and implementation. He will be based in IPAF's head office in Cumbria.



Richard Whiting

Chief executive Tim Whiteman said: "We are delighted to announce Richard as IPAF's UK market general manager. His skills-set and experience are ideally suited to helping deliver a more dynamic set of benefits and services to members. IPAF is embarking upon fairly significant improvements in its membership offer, with a new audit regime for UK rental members, an expanding training programme, eLearning capabilities and a more advanced version of the PAL Card in development."

IPAF global mastclimber rep

IPAF has recruited Angel Ibañez as a dedicated representative for the global mastclimbing work platform market, a new role created by the organisation to reflect the growth and influence of its mastclimber membership base and activities.

Ibañez is based in Zaragoza, Spain and will be responsible for developing IPAF's membership services and training programme for mastclimbers. He was previously sales manager at Spanish manufacturer Saltec and more recently worked as an independent consultant to the mastclimbing sector. He reports to Romina Vanzi, head of regional development and mastclimbing work platforms.