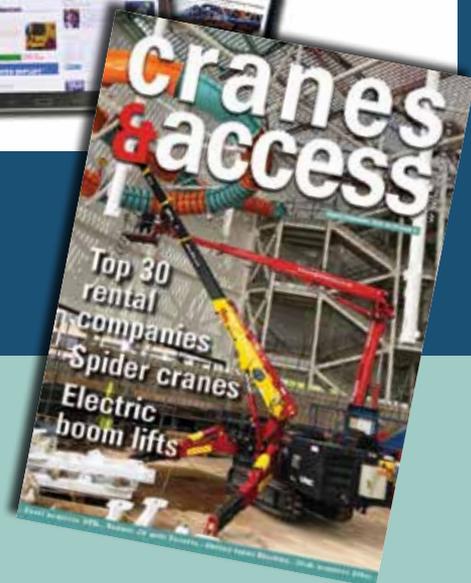


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IPAF to trial virtual reality advanced operator tests using simulators

After several months of development and fine tuning, IPAF is ready for "controlled trials" of its PAL+ advanced operator assessment in a virtual reality (VR) environment using simulators.

IPAF will conduct controlled trials involving some of its training members to deliver PAL+ training that will test candidates using the latest simulators instead of real machines. The other elements of the PAL+ course, notably the theory module of the course and the pre-use inspection, will be conducted as usual at an approved IPAF Training Centre.

Chief executive Tim Whiteman said: "After last year's consultation and the analysis of the feedback received, and working very closely with members, it is our considered view that, while we still want to see people taking their basic operator instruction using real machines, for more advanced operators, we can be confident of assessing their skills and behaviours using simulators."

The trials are taking place on specific simulators that have been approved for this purpose by IPAF's training department. Giles Councill, IPAF's director of operations, who has been leading the development of IPAF's training in new and next generation applications, added: "Working with some of our largest training provider members in both the UK and the US, we will now embark on proving trials testing genuine PAL+ training candidates in the way we would normally, but with the assessment taking place on a simulator. If they pass their assessment, they will be issued with their certification to PAL+ - these are not 'dummy runs'."

"If the trials prove successful, we will look to fully develop the IPAF PAL+ course into eLearning and VR by developing a digital version of the theory module and simulated pre-use inspection. It's a very exciting step forward and one that could revolutionise and enhance the ways our accredited training centres deliver IPAF courses."

It is hoped that by moving the PAL+ course into the VR environment, this will open up IPAF's advanced operator training as a viable option for more approved Training Centres, and in turn make it more attractive to trainees, who will need to spend less time away from their jobs.



An IPAF simulator in action at Vertical Days



Virtual Reality training may be the future for advanced courses

New Hire Controller Apprenticeship

A new Hire Controller Trailblazer Apprenticeship has been launched in the UK, with assistance from IPAF, which helped develop the new standard and associated end point assessment and worked together with employers and other trade bodies to create a common set of documents to support the new apprenticeship programme.

IPAF attended the London launch event for the new apprenticeship, with Richard Whiting, UK & Ireland general manager, and training manager Paul Roddis, having worked closely with the implementation group and create a common set of supporting materials including Apprentice Logbook.

Whiting said: "We have been part of this Trailblazer group, which is chaired by Kirsty Archbold-Laming, and IPAF, the CPA and HAE all worked together to devise a common set of documents in support of the standard, which are recognisable and acceptable for all federations and trade bodies whose members will be making use of this new pathway into the wider UK rental industry."

"IPAF has likewise been instrumental in developing a new Lift Truck and Powered Access Engineering Technician Trailblazer Apprenticeship, which will be similarly ready to launch imminently."

More information is available, including grant funding at www.citb.co.uk/levy-grants-and-funding/grants-funding/skills-and-training-fund



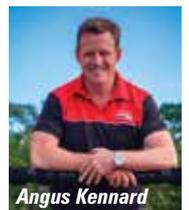
The Stars of the Future awards ceremony

'Super PDS' for UK training instructors

IPAF's Professional Development Seminar (PDS) for UK instructors will be a combined 'Super PDS' for the UK on 17 September at the Holiday Inn Birmingham, and booking is now open via www.ipaf.org/events.

Kennard to speak at Europlatform

Angus Kennard of Kennards Hire, Australia has joined the list of speakers for Europlatform 2019 which will be held in Nice, France, on 3rd October.



Angus Kennard

IPAF events

IPAF supported this year's CPA Stars of the Future event, apprenticeship award event, the association was represented by training operations co-ordinator Susan Foster and UK market general manager Richard Whiting.

The IPAF UK Elevation 2019 open meeting, conference and dinner in Coventry will be held on 27th November. Speakers will include Karl Baum of F-Tec, David Bishop of Build UK, and Ray Cooke of the Health and Safety Executive.

The West Midlands Regional IPAF meeting, to be held 18th September at the Bromsgrove Hotel & Spa. The speaker line-up includes Jonathan Till of GT Access, Dean Hammond of Point of Rental Software, Mark Evans of Dudley Mind, and Keith Rudd of Platinum International. Richard Whiting will also give an IPAF update.