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# UK ready for IPAF Rental+ minimum standard

The IPAF UK Country Council is on course to achieve its target for all rental company members in the UK to meet the new IPAF Rental+ minimum standards by September.

The Council mandated in 2017 that all rental company members in the UK should be audited to meet the required standard within a two year transition period, while all new IPAF rental members in the UK need to be certificated to the IPAF Rental+ standard.

UK & Ireland market general managers Richard Whiting said: "IPAF has been supporting members through the process to attain IPAF Rental+ minimum standard and we thank members for the engagement and hard

work shown. Those efforts are paying off with all hirer members well on course. IPAF Rental+ is an industry-recognised standard that confers confidence that the company will deliver safe and quality equipment, and excellent customer service."



## First advanced operator training using simulators

The first training candidates have successfully passed the IPAF PAL+ advanced operator course in a virtual reality (VR) environment using simulators. In July IPAF launched controlled trials involving some of its training members to deliver PAL+ training that tests candidates using sophisticated platform 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, and the first batch of candidates has now successfully completed their PAL+ training at AFI-Uplift's training centre in Rothwell, West Yorkshire.

IPAF training manager Paul Roddis said: "There has been a huge amount of hard work put into making these assessment scenarios as lifelike and challenging in the VR environment as they are when using real machines; the next step was to prove the technology using real training candidates under genuine assessment conditions. We have worked with the developers of the simulator technology over many months perfecting the detail and quality of the VR environment, testing extensively at events including Vertical Days, Bauma and IPAF Innovate in the US, working out the fine details, gathering feedback and calibrating the simulators for use at IPAF training centres. I am pleased to say this hard work has paid off."

Not all IPAF approved training centres offer PAL+ training,

in part owing to the significant investment required to purchase specific equipment types, and the need for a large and secure training area containing structures around and through which the candidates must operate during their assessment. Moving the course into the VR environment is expected to increase the number of training centres offering PAL+ training.



## Lifetime achievement award for Woods

IPAF's Middle East & India representative Jason Woods has received a lifetime achievement award for his work promoting safe work at height at India's OHSSAI's Annual HSE Excellence & Sustainability Awards in July.

*Jason Woods of IPAF accepts his Lifetime Achievement award from chairman Avdesh Malaiya (L) and general secretary Sunil Bhalerao (R).*



## Europlatform speakers

The list of speakers has been issued for Europlatform which will be held in Nice, France on October 3rd. They include Angus Kennard of Australia's Kennards Hire, Olivier Colleau of Kiloutou, David McNicholas of AFI, Clotilde Jouette of Avesco Rent, Valeriy Klimenko of Russia's FortRent and Audrey Courant of DuckerFrontier.

Tickets can be purchased on the IPAF website for €250 for members and €295 for non-members, with early bird discounts still available.



## West Midlands regional meeting

Booking is open for those wishing to attend the IPAF West Midlands regional meeting at the Bromsgrove Hotel & Spa on Wednesday 18th September, beginning at 6:30pm

The West Midlands Regional Meeting will be hosted by Jonathan Till, of GT Access, with Keith Rudd of Platinum International talking on battery safety, care, maintenance and handling. Other delegates will include speakers from Point of Rental software solutions, and one from Dudley Mind covering ways to improve and promote recovery and wellbeing affected by poor mental health in the workplace.

There is a charge of £10 per head for IPAF members, £15 for non-members.

