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IPAF to launch global safety campaign at Bauma

IPAF will launch its 2019 global safety campaign at Bauma, in April. The IPAF stand, located in hall C4, will allow visitors to review the updated 'MEWPs for Managers' course, which is now available for eLearning. It will also feature a simulator, to highlight some of the recommendations in the IPAF eXtended Reality (XR) Strategy document, including a demo of the IPAF PAL+ advanced operator course as an integrated simulator training package.

The new safety campaign has been created to address the increase in accidents while operating powered access equipment alongside or on roads, a trend identified through IPAF's accident reporting project and a significant cause of accidents when working at height. The campaign, based on actual incidents, will emphasise the need for good planning to reduce the danger of operating near pedestrians and traffic.

Chief executive Tim Whiteman said: "The eyes of the world will be on Bauma, with half a million visitors expected, so it is a great opportunity for IPAF to showcase advances to its training along with its safety and technical guidance.

For more details IPAF's safety campaigns see www.ipaf.org/safe

IPAF adds to Technical & Safety department

IPAF has appointed Claude Dubé as UK Technical & Safety manager, based at its head office in Cumbria. A Canadian who has lived in the UK for many years, he is fluent in English and French and brings a wealth of experience garnered across a career working as an engineer for access equipment manufacturers in North America and Europe.

Andrew Delahunt, director of technical & safety, said: "It is a pleasure to welcome Claude. He brings invaluable expertise and will be a huge asset to IPAF and our members."

Dubé added: "It is an honour to join such a well respected organisation as IPAF. Safety is the most important concern for everyone who works at height and I look forward to working with my new colleagues to make a positive difference."



Claude Dubé

New date for APPG report to Parliament

The publication of the findings of the All Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into falls from height in the workplace, led by MP Alison Thewliss, has been confirmed for Tuesday 26th February. Richard Whiting and Peter Douglas will represent IPAF at the event.



MP Alison Thewliss



Simulators 'should enhance but not replace'

Technologies such as virtual reality and simulators will soon be enhancing operator training, but not likely to replace practical testing in the foreseeable future, according to IPAF's eXtended Reality (XR) strategy paper. The industry wide consultation into this exciting new technology produced a detailed strategy paper based on the findings. IPAF members worked with the association to produce a policy document on how virtual reality systems can be effectively and safely harnessed to train operators. This led to a ground breaking set of recommendations that are now being implemented.

Tim Whiteman said: "The training sector is undergoing a virtual reality revolution, with simulators now so advanced that operators have been known to reach for an imaginary harness while operating them, or even asked to get off the simulator because they suffered vertigo or motion sickness!"

IPAF has demonstrated its latest simulator at a number of events around the world, from Intermat in France and Vertical Days in the UK, to the IPAF conference in Malaysia and the Euro Institut: Health & Safety Forum at the EU Parliament.

IPAF has ruled out developing equipment or simulators itself, opting instead to develop a system under which it may review, approve and certify XR packages that may be interfaced with IPAF's own training programme, in particular the IPAF PAL+ qualification, or play other key functions in delivering familiarisation and safety instruction.

IPAF's strategy paper states that XR can be applied to:

- Complement IPAF's guidelines and advice for the safe use of powered access.
- enhance learning for operators.
- enhance safety for operators.

Furthermore, the paper proposes the following key recommendations:

- Simulators can be used to prepare candidates effectively for practical testing.
- Augmented reality (AR) would enhance pre-use inspection of machines and enrich theory and practical training.
- Interactive 360 degree video can contextualise a range of hazards associated with work platform use.
- VR simulators could play a major role in refresher training and to test ongoing operator competency.

IPAF is working closely with members and those developing the technology to implement its XR strategy, which will provide a framework and terms of reference for those seeking to apply or adopt it to enhance training and complement the safe use of powered access. For more information, visit www.ipaf.org/XRstrategy

