

PASMA training continues



Delegates wear masks throughout their course at Kentec Training

As restrictions ease across the UK, employers should be reassured that PASMA training courses are safe and widely available. If cards have lapsed or new employees are using scaffold towers without one, now is the time to book them on a course.

PASMA's network of accredited training centres must follow PASMA guidance on training during the Covid-19 pandemic, even when that means cutting class sizes. The association sets out all areas that training centres must consider to satisfy themselves that they can do it safely. For example:

- Using 'one-person towers' for training where possible
- Making face coverings mandatory
- Facilitating and enforcing social distancing
- Using e-learning for the theory section of the course
- Taking extra cleaning and hygiene measures
- Carrying out Covid-19 risk assessments
- Follow all applicable government guidance

PASMA training continued during the tightest restrictions this year, with accredited training centres and instructors keeping courses Covid secure. Pandemic protocols have now become second nature for the training centres, assisted by ongoing PASMA guidance and government regulations.

Steve Booker, from Kentec Training, explains:

"Masks have been mandatory for all delegates since last summer and after initial shortages last year, we could swim in hand sanitiser now! Our centres are deep cleaned every morning, we are also doing temperature checks on delegates and our staff are having regular lateral flow tests, as an extra precaution. We're doing everything we can to continue our Covid secure



A Towers for Users course at the new Warren Access facility in Newcastle



Delegates socially distance during the theory section of their course at Ridgeway

training environment because we know how much our clients depend on PASMA training being available whenever their staff need it."

Michelle Warren, director of Warren Access, adds:

"With us, almost all theory sessions are done remotely now, so delegates complete 50percent of the course from home. For the practical session they come to either our Newcastle or Huntingdon centres, which are kitted out with track and trace QR codes, sanitising stations and social distancing signage. Work at height always involves an element of risk and we're used to mitigating these on PASMA training courses. The risk of spreading Covid-19 is just one more risk to address."

Stephen Kane, from Ridgeway in Northern Ireland, says:

"We completely re-arranged our training rooms to allow two metres of social distancing between delegates and the instructor. We also changed the registration process to add temperature checks and Covid questionnaires before training starts. On arrival, every delegate is given a mask and hand sanitiser along with their training materials. We've found people are happy to follow our new rules, which everyone realises are there to ensure they can train in a safe environment."

Gillian Rutter, Director of Skyward Training and chairman of the PASMA Training Committee added:

"It's essential that anyone working on scaffold towers is trained to do so safely and that's why PASMA training continued throughout the latest lockdown. In addition, we ran online seminars and launched an online 'Covid-19 Support Hub', which keeps tower users up to date with the latest news. Our members have shown that they can adapt quickly to evolving circumstances and keep courses running safely. The added precautions might make courses look a little different, but they're still delivering the same high quality content."

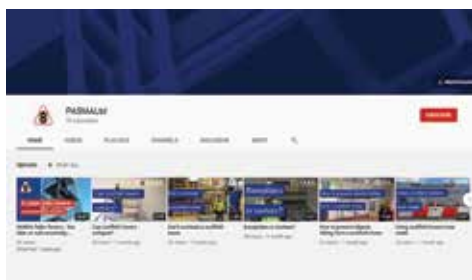
To book a course, contact your nearest PASMA training centre: pasma.co.uk/directory/find-training-centre

Bitesize safety videos

Tower users and managers can benefit from bitesize safety messages, thanks to a new series of one minute videos featuring instructors talking about different topics:

- Guardrails – when, where, why and how many?
- How to check if ground conditions are suitable for a tower
- Using scaffold towers near roads
- How to prevent objects falling from a scaffold tower
- Baseplates or castors?
- Don't overload a scaffold tower
- Can scaffold towers collapse?

You can watch the videos on at youtube.com/PASMALtd



Tower Week events

PASMA's annual Tower Week campaign took place from in mid March, with also PASMA hosting two virtual seminars, which are now available to watch on-demand:

- EN 1004-1:2020 – a safety professional's guide: Changes to EN 1004 take full effect this year. If you're responsible for the safety of tower users, tune in to hear PASMA's technical director, Don Aers, explain how to use the transition period wisely.
- Keeping workers safe on towers – a manager's responsibilities: Ray Cooke (No Falls Foundation, formerly HSE) joined Chris Smith (PASMA) for a discussion about a manager's responsibilities under the Work at Height Regulations.

Both events are available at: pasma.co.uk/tower-week



For more information about the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and the No Falls Foundation charity for working at height, please visit www.accessindustryforum.org.uk and www.nofallsfoundation.org