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RELIABILITY IN ACTION

NEW REPRESENTATIVE IN IRELAND

IPAF has appointed Damien O'Connor as its representative for all of Ireland, following a year of rapid membership and training growth across the region.

O'Connor worked in a variety of roles at HSS Hire in Ireland from 2014 to 2021 before establishing his own training and safety consultancy business. He began his working life in construction, until a work-related fall from height in 2013 forced a career change and prompted his interest in work at height safety and training. O'Connor is a qualified IPAF training instructor and will report to Richard Whiting, IPAF's UK & Ireland general manager.

Speaking of his new role O'Connor said: "IPAF is well known to me from my recent work as a safety and training consultant and motivational speaker around avoiding falls from height, and of course from my time with HSS Hire in Ireland. I am really looking forward to getting to meet IPAF members and helping spread the word about safety, training and the IPAF Rental+ standard."

IPAF chief executive Peter Douglas added: "After a strong year for IPAF across the board, the Irish



Damien O'Connor

region has been a standout in terms of new members and training delivery. It is such a fast growing market and so this is the ideal time to appoint a standalone representative to cover both Ireland and Northern Ireland."

NEW ANDY ACCESS POSTERS AND TOOLBOX TALKS

IPAF has introduced new Andy Access safety posters, briefings and toolbox talks, covering subjects such as Safe Mast Climbing Work Platform and Construction Hoist Loading as well as Rescue Planning. They also include assessing platform tyre condition and how to prevent falls from height.

IPAF recommends that anyone planning or overseeing work at height with powered access, reviews and downloads the posters and presentations and to use them on a regular basis to reinforce safety messages. They are short and to the point and quick and easy to deliver.

Brian Parker, head of safety and technical said: "IPAF puts a lot of resource into preparing these Toolbox Talks and we now have a Toolbox Talk Work Group drawn together from across our membership. We create them based on feedback from the industry, as well as trends we identify through analysis of data gathered through the Accident Reporting Portal, and our annual Global Safety Report."

Peter Douglas added: "Complacency and overfamiliarity with a task are dangers in the workplace, and even the most experienced operators benefit from being reminded of the safety basics that sometimes get forgotten or overlooked during a busy working day. Better still, why not ask your operators to deliver one of the talks to colleagues? This will be one way to ensure the information that they impart remains forefront in their mind."

IPAF's Andy Access posters and Toolbox Talks are available free to download from www.ipaf.org/andyaccess and www.ipaf.org/toolboxtalks.



UKCA MARKING SCHEME DELAYED

The introduction of the UK Conformity Assessed (UKCA) marking scheme has been pushed back a further two years in a move that will allow CE-marked products to continue to be sold in Great Britain until 31st of December 2024.

If the scheme proceeds, products will be required to carry the UKCA mark from January 2025 if they are to be sold in England, Scotland and Wales. Northern Ireland will continue to use CE marking.

UKCA

Manufacturers planning to apply the UKCA mark based on a conformity assessment conducted by an EU notified body will now have until the end of December 2024 to obtain the relevant certificates from their notified body. The certificates will remain valid until at least 31st December 2027 or until the certificate expires, whichever is soonest.

To find out more about the transition to UKCA marking, www.gov.uk/guidance/ukca-marking-conformity-assessment-and-documentation

IPAF BACKS CAMPAIGN TO RETAIN UK WORK AT HEIGHT LAWS

IPAF is supporting the AIF (Access Industry Forum) campaign to save UK Work at Height safety regulations, which are set to be repealed as part of the 'bonfire of EU laws'.

The AIF has given evidence to the House of Commons Public Bill Committee that is considering the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill, urging it to exclude Work at Height Regulations from repeal.

Peter Douglas said: "The Work at Height Regulations are a key part of ensuring employers realise, understand and discharge statutory responsibilities to keep their employees safe in the workplace. It seems counter intuitive to just jettison such laws without proper industry consultation or parliamentary scrutiny, so we support the AIF in its call to exclude current Work at Height laws from repeal."

