

# Tickets for cards

IPAF is running a poster promotion (pictured) campaign aimed at construction site managers and



industrial safety officers to encourage them to check that all those using platforms on their sites are properly trained. They stand to win a pair of tickets to a Premiership football match – or First, Second or Third Division game if they prefer – for each PAL Card checked.

Whenever they check an operators PAL Card, they can submit the name and number on the card, along with their own contact details, to IPAF by email or fax and be entered into the draw for tickets.

The holder of the PAL card submitted on each winning entry will also receive two match tickets.

# International standard for operator training

The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) has approved a new Standard, providing an international benchmark against which powered access operator training courses can now be judged. [ISO/FDIS 18878:2004, Mobile elevating work platforms – Operator (driver) training was approved in early July].

“For the first time we have a clear yardstick from a respected international body,” said Tim Whiteman, IPAF managing director. “The new standard will form the basis for everyone – from governments and their agencies, right down to individual operators – to recognise which courses provide the proper training increasingly required by legislation around the world.

“With the standard in place, it would be hard to defend the adequacy of any training that does not meet or exceed the requirements it sets out.”



*ISO commands international respect; so too will its newly approved operator training standard ISO/FDIS 18878:2004.*

ISO/FDIS 18878:2004 does not provide detailed course plans, but covers the framework of contents and procedures to which training needs to conform. It insists that trainees must satisfy the trainer of their competence in both practical skills and theoretical knowledge. Auditing procedures are required to ensure that the training meets its objectives consistently, while the standard draws a clear distinction between training and ‘familiarisation’.

Welcoming the decisive vote - all the 15 countries voting were in favour of the Standard’s adoption. Dennis Eckstine, executive president of AWPT Inc, the IPAF subsidiary that promotes and delivers operator training across North America, and who chairs the International Standards Organisation’s TC214 Technical Committee, Elevating work platforms, said: “This new ISO standard will help to influence the attitudes toward a quality training programme.”

# Hirers aim higher

IPAF’s Terms and Conditions of Hire are available exclusively to IPAF members, including versions covering England & Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

According to Giles Councill, IPAF Scheme Auditor, the launch of IPAF’s Rental+ at SED has resulted in a flood of interest from IPAF rental company members.

“The majority of our rental company members have already expressed an interest in joining the scheme,” he said. “We are finalising details of the audit procedures and will begin visiting companies shortly.”

IPAF says that the interest is hardly surprising as the initiative was developed at the request of, and with the active involvement of, members, who clearly saw the need for an independent endorsement of their high standards of service and support for their customers.

One aspect of operation that will be examined by the audit procedure will be the terms and conditions of the rental agreement. Terms and conditions are the important, but often neglected, basis of any rental and should be designed to protect both parties. They can also be used to reinforce safety procedures.

IPAF and its members have put their own broad experience of platform rental into its own Terms and Conditions of Hire, published a year ago and drafted to cover the specific requirements of platform rental. There are now four separate versions, available on CD, covering England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Clement Hire’s John Jennings, who chaired the IPAF committee that prepared the IPAF Terms and Conditions of Hire, has played a key role in their development and highlighted that they are not intended to be cast in stone.

“Contract law changes as issues

are tested in court and new legal precedents are set,” said Mr Jennings. “Our members using the Terms and Conditions will also come across new situations that they recognise as not being fully covered. We need the continuing feedback from members so that we can update the Terms and Conditions to reflect changing needs and developments in contract law.

“Members should be aware that however good the terms may be, it is vital that the correct procedures are established so that staff and systems ensure that it is the IPAF Terms that apply to each hire transaction.

“We are issuing guidance notes alongside the Terms to help members set up workable procedures to support their use,” said Mr Jennings.

“There is increasing evidence that the courts will rule unfavourably in disputes where documentation is sloppy so it is in the interests of all members to combine the adoption of the new Terms with a thorough review of their hire issue procedures.”



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