

IPAF hits the US

IPAF SUBSIDIARY, AWPT Inc, has opened an IPAF training centre in Pennsylvania, making it the first ever IPAF centre to be opened in the US. The centre will be operated by Eckstine & Associates, whose president, Dennis Eckstine, helped develop the training programme for AWPT.

Eckstine is pictured here (right) holding AWPT's first PAL card, which was presented by Dennis Watson (second from left), holder of IPAF PAL card number 100,000. IPAF's Paul Adorian (left) and Roy Forey, first secretary trade at the British Embassy in the US, join in welcoming the expansion of IPAF operator training into the US. ■

UK contractors agree ongoing recognition of IPAF's PAL card

THE UK'S Major Contractors' Group (MCG) has confirmed that IPAF's PAL card will continue to be accepted by its members. While this announcement does not on the face of it seem significant, the agreement to recognise an independent "licensing" scheme by the Major Contractors group is a genuine milestone.

In a letter to IPAF, MCG's John Bradshaw makes the position absolutely clear: "IPAF is included in the list of MCG Accepted Record Schemes, and I am not aware of any proposals to change this at present."

"Although we have an outline agreement that would bring the PAL Card within the ambit of CSCS, the practical details still need further discussion," explains IPAF's Paul Adorian. "So, until we have a fully workable arrangement, the PAL card will naturally continue to be recognised throughout the construction industry just as it always has been.

"Whatever is ultimately decided upon with CSCS, we do not see this changing IPAF training, the award of the PAL Card is the natural choice for platform operators working in the construction or any other industry," stressed Adorian. ■

Full story on www.vertikal.net.



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End of an era

THERE IS hardly the need for a tribute to Paul Adorian, nor the space available here, as he moves over for Tim Whiteman to take his place as IPAF managing director. Over the past twenty years, developments that have taken place in the industry that Adorian has helped IPAF to shape, including the establishment of operator training in the UK, stand as permanent reminders of his work.

Nor is there a need to wish him well in retirement. What retirement? It will come as no surprise to those who know Adorian that he will certainly not be leaving the industry rather re-focussing his involvement.

Firstly, Adorian will still be a part of IPAF through the membership of his own consultancy company, Paul Adorian Associates. Secondly, he will also be continuing his managing directorship, and now ownership, of PAC Ltd, a company that undertakes inspection, certification and technical consultancy work within the access industry.

So, whilst Adorian may no longer be in the front line, he will hardly be far away.

Site Safety Guide for Mast Climbing Work Platforms

IPAF HAS also announced the launch of its latest publication, Site Safety Guide for Mast Climbing Work Platforms (MCWPS). The new 36-page guide, which follows on from the already established Operators' Safety Guide, which relates to the use of MEWPS, is available as a comprehensive reference source for those involved with MCWPs - either on the user or supplier side.

Drawing heavily on the extensive experience of IPAF's MCWP Committee, the Guide covers all the major elements of the guidance provided by BS 7981, whose publication last year made a major contribution to defining the standards surrounding MCWP application.

The Guide is available direct from IPAF's Operator Training Administration Centre and as with the Operators' Safety Guide, member companies can have the Guide printed in their own covers.

One door closes...

WITH 2004 now well-underway, IPAF's new managing director, Tim Whiteman, comments on his first seven months with the federation.

"I've needed to spend time meeting as many members in as many countries as possible," states Whiteman. "The international membership of IPAF is fundamental to what we can achieve, not only globally, but also within each individual country, because our worldwide standing greatly enhances our influence everywhere.

"I've been particularly impressed with the growing enthusiasm for training in southern Europe as reflected in the forum we held at SAIE, and the launch of our training in the US. I see this important wind of change across at least two continents as being good news for our industry and its users."

Commenting on the potential impact of increased legislation and regulation, Whiteman is keen to highlight his long-standing belief

that the implementation in national legislation of 2001/45/EC – the Temporary Work at Height Directive – is going to have a major effect throughout Europe.

This, including Britain's implementation of the Directive – the New Work at Height Regulations – will be covered at this year's Access Summit, which has become a regular feature of IPAF's AGM and Luncheon. This year's event is being held on 22 April at the London Heathrow Marriott Hotel.

The Summit will also examine international legislation and regulation for those who work at height, the opportunity it offers the powered access industry and how users can also turn it to commercial advantage rather than be disadvantaged through being ill prepared to meet tougher legislative requirements.

RIGHT: TIM WHITEMAN adds the 26 metre working height category to his PAL card at Facelift's IPAF Training Centre in Hickstead. Whiteman also uniquely holds the equivalent US qualification, the AWPT PAL card, having attended the first of the training sessions run by Eckstine & Associates in Pennsylvania who now operate North America's first IPAF training centre.



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