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NEW TOOLBOX TALK

IPAF has released a new Toolbox Talk to reinforce safe practices when choosing a third party provider to service or maintain aerial work platforms. The briefing highlights the need to choose qualified providers and ensure that all work complies with the Original Equipment Manufacturer's specifications, or, where appropriate, is verified by a competent professional engineer.

Intended for platform owners - including end users and rental companies, along with third party service teams - the Toolbox Talk is intended to stimulate and support the discussion of risks and responsibility before work begins. The resource is available in multiple languages and joins IPAF's existing collection of Toolbox Talks.



IPAF ELEVATION UK

IPAF's UK Elevation event will be held on the 1st of July at Hilton St George's Park, north of Birmingham.

The afternoon will include a conference with updates from IPAF, followed by an evening of networking over a barbecue. Entertainment and after dinner drinks will then take place in the event bar.

St George's Park is home to 28 training teams, including England, and therefore provides a distinctive backdrop for this year's event. With the World Cup ongoing, delegates will be able to watch live matches on screen throughout the evening, with fixtures and timings to be confirmed.



IPAF AT CONEXPO

Conexpo 2026 will be held in Las Vegas from March 3rd to the 7th. IPAF will be there and will focus on the importance of aerial work platforms and mast climbing training, safety and industry leadership.

IPAF will be based at booth GL31205 in the Grand Lobby and will highlight a range of initiatives throughout the show, designed to help contractors, rental companies, supervisors and operators improve productivity while reducing risk on North American jobsites.

The association's core themes for the show include:

- eLearning
- Roadways safety campaign
- Digital innovation
- Advancing safe aerial work platform use together



IPAF North America regional manager Tony Groat said: "I'm looking forward to hosting a seminar at the event titled 'Smart MEWP Selection: The accessories that take safety further.' It's not just about picking the right lift, it's about equipping it for safety and efficiency."

IPAF at APEX

IPAF will also exhibit at APEX in Maastricht, Netherlands, from the 2nd to the 4th of June. The organisation will feature live demonstrations on outdoor stand number 1240 and will also have a booth indoors on stand 210.

NEW STANDARDS

Two new British Standards (BSI) publications have been released: BS 8460:2025 'Safe use of mobile elevating work platforms - Code of practice' and BS 7981:2025 'Mast climbing work platforms - Selection, configuration, installation, maintenance, thorough examination and safe use - Code of practice.'

BS 8460:2025 replaces BS 8460:2017 and has been updated to reflect EN 280-1:2022 and EN 280-2:2022. The new edition introduces a process based structure to help users plan, manage and operate mobile elevating work platforms more effectively.

Key developments include a new end to end process map for safe aerial work platform use, revised and improved guidance on risk assessment, wind considerations, use with fall arrest equipment, and load handling devices. There is also more detailed advice on choosing work platforms for integrated load handling, new requirements for operation and training, as well as additional content on zone or motion control features. The standard also clarifies competence expectations, introduces new planning stages, and enhances recommendations for secondary guarding, pedestrian management and reinstating unused work platforms.

BS 7981:2025 provides recommendations and guidance for the installation, maintenance, thorough examination and safe use of mast climbing work platforms. The standard aims to ensure the equipment is used safely, reducing the risk of accidents and improving operational efficiency.

IPAF head of safety and technical, Brian Parker, said: "This marks a significant milestone for our industry with the publication of BSI 7981. This document strengthens the guidance available to contractors, installers, rental companies, and safety professionals, supporting safer planning, installation, operation, rescue, and supervision of mast climbers."

