

Safety enforcement – still not tough enough

In welcoming the Health & Safety Commission (HSC) Strategic Plan 2001/02 – 2003/04, IPAF Managing Director Paul Adorian, has repeated his view that government still needs to devote more resources to improving safety at work.

'Falls from Height' are identified as a priority programme in the Plan – and with good reason. UK workplace fatalities in 2000/01 increased by 34% to 295. Over a third of these were in the construction industry alone and falls from height remained the major single cause of deaths.

The HSC has declared itself "greatly concerned by the increase in fatalities" and has

Government really must act to stop dangerous abuses of non-access plant



underlined that it is "taking firm action to encourage sustainable improvement". Even since the Plan was agreed, the Health & Safety Executive has increased its target of proactive visits to examine control of the risks of falls from height.

That the UK is ahead of

most other countries on safety legislation and enforcement, is not enough for Paul Adorian.

"Many types of platform have been readily available throughout Europe at

almost absurdly low prices for many years. Despite this, right across the continent, individual government enforcement agencies and the EC itself, continue to turn a blind eye to the widespread misuse of fork-lift trucks, telescopic loaders and other dangerous means of raising people off the ground.

Yet they continue to express surprise and concern at the number of people killed and injured in falls from height.

"It is high time to stop beating about the bush, grasp the nettle once and for all and introduce legislation to outlaw the lifting of people above three metres in anything but a machine designed and built for that specific purpose.

He believes that failure to act, not only directly costs lives, but also sends the wrong message to industry: "This is a classic case of government inaction breeding contempt for safety."

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- A What is the *Cranes & Access* Web Site address?
- B In which US city is Haulotte's new subsidiary, Haulotte US Inc, located? (Clue: visit www.haulotte.com)
- C What is the model number and maximum lift capacity of Demag's new heavylift lattice boom crawler crane? (Clue: visit www.demag24.com)

Write the answers on the back of your business card (or company headed paper with your name) and send to: 'Fly me to Las Vegas' *Cranes and Access*, PO Box 3227, Brighton BN1 4UR





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