

RAISING the standard

IPAF has re-launched its members' newsletter under the new title of *RAISING the standard*.

The primary purpose is to keep its growing membership in touch with its activities as well as to comment and stimulate debate on the key developments and issues that affect the industry.

The latest issue leads on 'Outlaw the cowboys', which covers the IPAF campaign to stamp out the misuse of non purpose-designed plant to provide makeshift access. Also featured is the crucial – and commercial – importance of adopting a strong safety culture in the industry, an update on the use of safety harnesses, developments of operator training and the Competent Assessed Persons (CAP) scheme run by Powered Access Certification Ltd.

All IPAF members will automatically and regularly receive three copies of the publication and can request



IPAF's re-launched newsletter, RAISING the standard

further copies, addressed directly to all those in their organisation who would like to receive it.

The newsletter is also being circulated more widely throughout the industry and all readers of *Cranes & Access*, who have an interest in powered access, are invited to apply to be added to the circulation by contacting IPAF at its Carnforth Office.

Call 0845 1307775 to prevent card fraud

Site managers are taking the issue of proof of training increasingly seriously. This is highlighted by the number of calls to IPAF's card verification hotline, which now plays a significant role in ensuring that only properly trained platform operators are allowed to work on site.

This service has become an integral element of the Approved Training Scheme and the PAL card that IPAF has introduced the dedicated Hotline number – 0845 1307775 – to streamline operation.

The rising incidence of attempted fraud, is a response by the unscrupulous to the increasingly effective exclusion from site of platform operators who do not have documentary evidence of proper training. Major contractors are playing a central role in making 'No card' mean 'no work' on an increasing number of sites. The new Hotline number is aimed to speed up and simplify the verification process.



IPAF is pursuing a campaign to stamp out the dangerous practice of using all types of machines – notably fork lift trucks and telehandlers – for access. Members have lost count of the number of horrifying examples that they regularly come across.

Apart from ladders resting on makeshift staging supported on the forks of fork lifts, other typical abuses include groups of workers being hoisted in crates on the end of telehandler booms and digger buckets. IPAF has already amassed considerable details and photographic evidence, which it is to present to the EC so that it can put pressure on member states' governments to outlaw this widespread practice. Lobbying will also take place directly with individual governments and their regulatory authorities.

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