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For 2024, we are heading to our new venue, Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire where professionals from the industry will see the very latest that the Crane, Aerial work platform and Telehandler market has to offer.



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CERTIFICATION SCHEME AIMS TO BOOST STANDARDS IN IRELAND

By the end of 2024, rental businesses in both the North and the Republic of Ireland will need to achieve IPAF Rental+ certification in order to become an IPAF member.

IPAF Rental + certification was created to demonstrate that a powered access rental company has been independently audited and meets appropriate health and safety, quality and environmental standards.

IPAF's Irish country manager Damien O'Connor said: "Our Rental+ certification scheme was created to ensure that customers can hire equipment with confidence. Our Irish Council introduced IPAF Rental+ certification as a membership requirement to reinforce members' commitment to quality and safety in the industry and ensure consistent standards."

IPAF general manager Richard Whiting added: "Our Irish council's decision to mandate IPAF Rental + Certification for its rental members is a positive step and signifies a collective commitment to maintaining and improving standards."



IPAF EXTENDS ELEARNING INTO

CHINA

IPAF has launched its eLearning programme for operators of aerial work platforms in China. The launch in Shanghai kicked off with the announcement that both Sinoboom and Haulotte China have already signed up to offer the programme free of charge.



The programme covers a range of

topics, allowing operators to progress to higher levels of certification, and can contribute to their attainment of the internationally recognised PAL Card.

Managing director Peter Douglas said: "China is the fastest growing equipment market in the world, with a rental fleet that already includes hundreds of thousands of machines, as well as nearly five million equipment operators. A growing sector means more operators, and it is important that industry colleagues are equipped with the knowledge and skills to stay safe and work effectively."

Chinese regional manager Tim Mo added: "Offering the training in Chinese will help to ensure that the important safety principles covered by the programme are fully understood. It is essential that industry takes a lead in ensuring safety and providing access to training."

Alongside the eLearning provision, IPAF currently has 10 approved training centres in China and hopes the new online provision will encourage more to open over the next five years.

IPAF'S ELEVATION CONFERENCE

'It's all about the people' was the theme of this year's IPAF Elevation conference held in conjunction with the company's 40th anniversary.

Managing director Peter Douglas, spoke about key moments in IPAF's growth since 1983, including the launch of its accident reporting initiative.

He also highlighted the record increase in membership in 2022 with 2.5 million operators to date completing training for their powered access licences

Jake McCanney, a cyber underwriter at Aviva Insurance, spoke on ways to avoid or deal with the rising tide of cybercrime. He highlighted staff training as one of the best strategies open to companies, helping ensure that all employees understand how to spot phishing attacks and other cyber tricks, in addition to robust IT security systems.

Leadership development consultant Ali Moore talked about 'the science of relationships' and how company culture will be crucial to successfully attract and retain the workforce of the future.

Penny Mallory, the first woman to compete in the World Rally Championships, spoke on how she developed mental toughness using personal examples of how she picked herself up from

any negative experiences and worked to overcome imposter syndrome.

The conference closed with a networking dinner and entertainment from comedian Simon Evans.



IPAF GUIDANCE TO HELP KEEP FESTIVE DECORATION WORK SAFE

Anyone planning to use an aerial work platform to install and remove seasonal decorations is encouraged to take a look at IPAF's technical guidance booklet that can help avoid safety issues and mitigate risks involved with working at height in public areas.

Brian Parker, IPAF's head of safety and technical said: "At this time of year, there is often pressure placed on operators to try to save time and money by omitting to do a proper site assessment or to disregard safe practices. So, we urge all those planning and undertaking such operations to view the document which contains information on the key risks involved and the recommended ways to minimise and manage them."

The document is available in multiple languages and is free of charge to download at www.ipaf.org/resources

