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## AFI-UPLIFT LAUNCHES MORE HEALTH & SAFETY INITIATIVES

**It is even more important than ever that Health and Safety issues are never compromised. That is why AFI-Uplift is further increasing its commitment to this sector, in a move which will bring further benefits to customers.**

We have increased the range of training courses we provide to customers (**Page 8**) and are placing a particular emphasis on increasing awareness of the need for more companies to involve their managers in the MEWPs for Managers course, which covers the responsibilities of managers in relation to the use of powered access machines.

We have already been working with the major contractor to run this course on site for sub contractors working on the "Media City UK" project at Salford Quays, Manchester. Designed to eliminate unsafe practices through promoting greater understanding, this initiative is being extremely well received by the main contractor.

AFI is also fully committed to best practice in the use of harnesses and has now introduced a new range of harnesses to encourage greater use of this vital item of safety equipment (**Page 6**).

When it comes to Health and Safety, we firmly believe in practising what we preach – for example our own delivery drivers have been undergoing refresher programmes in driver training and we have directed additional resources into internal auditing and training with the appointment of Dave Christian, whose primary responsibility is to provide additional internal engineering training.

We should also all bear in mind that Health and Safety initiatives are not only a major contributor to safe working practices, but they also help to create

an efficient environment by promoting safe working. As well as investing in Health and Safety, we have also been making further investments in our fleet to meet the increasing demand for smaller machines (**Page 2**).

We are also delighted to announce the opening of our Leyton depot, which is located within just 1.7 miles of the Olympic Park (**Page 3**). If you are a contractor working on Olympic construction projects please get in touch to find out how our new facility can benefit your business.

Finally, as the first powered access rental company in the UK to have achieved full 'BuildingConfidence' accreditation under a scheme run by supply chain accreditation firm Achilles Information Ltd, we are pleased to report that AFI has now passed its first reassessment under the scheme (**Page 7**).



**AFI is increasing the range of training courses offered to customers.**

# AFI MAKES FURTHER INVESTMENT

## LEONARDOS AND POP-UPS PURCHASED

**AFI has purchased 50 Leonardo personnel lifts to add to its powered access fleet and is looking to increase this further – meeting customer demand for lightweight machines which can be used on floors with significantly reduced loadings.**

Weighing only 450kg, the battery-powered Leonardo is compact, enabling it to fit through a standard doorway. It has a working height of 4.90m, an extended platform length of 0.68m by 1.71m, and can turn within its own axis, making it extremely manoeuvrable.

AFI has also recently invested in an additional 25 Pop-Ups for its rental fleet, with further purchases planned. The battery-powered Pop-Up has a working height of 3.63 metres, a closed height of only 1.64m and a width of just 0.70m, weighing just 270kg.

AFI Director Nick Selley said: "This significant investment in the Leonardo and Pop-Up means we now have one of the UK's largest fleets of small and compact machines. These machines are able to meet all client requirements, particularly in relation to replacing the need for ladders and steps in many instances."

The AFI small and compact machine fleet also includes the versatile Star 6 and 10 models, which have proven to be extremely popular. The latest investment in the Leonardo and Pop-Ups means that AFI's customers can now think even smaller when working at height in areas where space is restricted.



**Above and right: AFI's fleet of Pop-Up machines have a working height of 3.63 metres, a closed height of only 1.64m and a width of just 0.70m.**



**The Leonardo Bravi weighs only 450kg, making it ideal for working on floors where point loading is an issue. The Leonardo has a working height of 4.90m, an extended platform length of 0.68m by 1.71m, and can turn within its own axis, making it extremely manoeuvrable.**

# T IN SMALL MACHINES

## AFI STAR MACHINES IN ACTION



**Contractors working on the refurbishment of a Marks & Spencer store in Kent certainly had to think small when it came to hiring powered access machines for working at height.**

With space to manoeuvre inside the store being restricted, AFI recommended compact Haulotte Star 6 and Star 10 platforms, together with 19 foot Skyjack scissor lifts.

The Star 6 was small enough to go into the goods lift, enabling it to work on the first floor. Its compact design also meant that it could operate between the gondolas in the store, whilst the outreach on the Star 10 enabled work to be carried out over the gondolas.

The Star 6 has a 6 metre working height, weighs only 800kg and has an overall width of just 0.78m. This very tight turning radius offers high manoeuvrability in the most congested areas. The Star 6 has a stowed height of only 1.65m, allowing access through standard doors and lifts.

**When contractors hired a powered access machine to install a fire security system at a Coventry school, a key part of the specification was that it had to be able to pass through narrow doors to gain access to the high ceilings of the school's gym.**

AFI supplied a Haulotte Star 10, which was small enough to negotiate the doorways at the Caludon Castle Business and Enterprise Specialist School, and also had the reach to provide access to the highest areas.

The electrically-powered Star 10 extends to a maximum working height of 10.00m and has a horizontal outreach of 3.10m.

With dimensions of 2.61m long, 1.99m high when stowed, and only 0.99m wide, the Star 10 is ideal for gaining access to areas where space is restricted. The Star 10 has a turning radius of only 1.87m and full 360 degree rotation, making it particularly versatile.



## New depot is close to Olympic Park

**AFI has opened a new depot at premises which are within just 1.7 miles of the Olympic Park.**

The AFI Leyton depot will be available to all contractors working at the Olympic Park who want to take advantage of having AFI's machines, training and service facilities available so close to the Olympic site.

Located at Unit 1, Forest Business Park, Argall Way, Leyton E10 7FB, the depot offers a fleet of boom and scissor lifts which are ready for short-notice hire. We will also be providing service engineer back up to minimise any down-time.

AFI representatives operating from the new depot include Alec Ulmer, Regional Sales Manager, and Account Managers Jason Soames and Steve Holland. The new facility will also offer AFI's full range of training courses to contractors working on the Olympics.

AFI Director Graham Osmond said: "With our new depot being so close to the Olympic Park, we can provide a quick response to contractors. AFI has already hired machines to five contractors working on the site."

**To contact the Leyton depot telephone 0208 521 2595.**

# THE TRAINING REQUIRED TO WORK AT HEIGHT

By Brian Parker, AFI General Training Manager

The most recent figures show that 58 people were killed in 2007/08 when working at height, and over 3,600 people were injured.

I firmly believe that a significant number of these deaths and accidents could have been avoided if the correct training had been undertaken and the relevant good working safety practices had been followed.

The first golden rule about working at height is this: if you can avoid it, then do so! For example, if you are cleaning upper level windows do you have to work at height or could you reach them from the ground, for example by using a pole system?

## Risk Assessment

If working at height cannot be avoided then you must carry out a risk assessment and method statement, the risk assessment and method statement should be communicated to all who are going to carry out the work and persons in the vicinity of the work.

The employer should select the most appropriate equipment to minimise the risks of a fall. There is a common perception that ladders are banned outright, but this is not the case. If you are working at height for only a short period then ladders or step ladders may be appropriate,



provided there is an adequate risk assessment and method statement and suitable precautions have been taken to prevent falls. However, many factors still need to be taken into account, for example the ladder has to be secured and footed, and the ground should be firm and level. Training will be required, and AFI can provide one day Ladder Manufacturers' Association courses at various locations, including on-site.

If ladders are not appropriate, then alloy towers might be considered. Here the company carrying out the work will need to look at providing work equipment which incorporates guard rails as collective protection, when carrying out the risk assessment. A one day Prefabricated Access Suppliers and Manufacturers' Association (PASMA) course is available through AFI. It might be that

the alloy towers or scaffolding might not provide the flexibility required for a job where work at height is required in several different locations, some of which could be in areas where space is restricted.

## IPAF Training Courses

In such cases, your risk assessment would then lead you to consider powered access equipment. Once again, training will be required and a wide range of courses are run by AFI under the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) banner.

The various categories for powered access machines have now changed, and it is often wrongly believed that anybody trained on the IPAF scissor and boom lift course will be able to operate any machine.

That is not the case – they will still need to take courses to cover the additional categories of static vertical machines or static booms if these are the chosen items of equipment.

Remember, when working at height in any way – including just getting onto a small step up – there is a legal requirement for risk assessments and method statements to be carried out and for training to be undertaken before using the work equipment.

This requirement comes from the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, the Work at Height Regulations 2005, the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998, and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. I would like to stress that it's not just the operators who need to be trained but their managers as well. How can a manager sitting in his office many miles away

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decide the best way that an employee should tackle a work at height project? How can they carry out a proper risk assessment for that project? Obviously they can't and because of this they could be putting their employee at risk and leaving themselves and their company open to prosecution irrespective of whether or not any persons are injured.

## Corporate Manslaughter

Indeed a new offence of Corporate Manslaughter now exists, which could possibly result in an employer and their employees spending a long time in jail.

In addition to imprisonment the company could also be fined an amount which could be 10% of its annual turnover, based on the previous year's turnover. Clearly in this current climate that could be a significant amount of money due to the downturn in business this year for most companies.

That is why the IPAF Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) for Managers course is so important. It advises managers on how to carry out a risk

assessment and also covers personal protection equipment, machine selection, planning and machine maintenance considerations.

For example, if you are carrying out any work at height you would first need to prepare a method statement. This will include identifying how you will access that height, how the work will be carried out, the precautions you will be taking against the machine being struck at ground level and the protection you will be providing to prevent falls from the machine.

The MEWPs for Managers course will cover these aspects and companies can also receive guidance from their powered access equipment providers, who will be able to advise on the best machine for the job in hand and will be able to carry out a site inspection, if required.

Harnesses are essential for anyone operating a boom lift. The half day IPAF harness course will cover the use of appropriate protection equipment and will cover the correct selection, fitting

and user inspection of harnesses for powered access machines. Attending the training courses mentioned in this article will help to greatly reduce (and hopefully completely eliminate) some of the safety abuses which, unfortunately, are still all too common.

These include failing to provide barriers around a powered access machine, standing on guard rails, getting out of a platform at height to climb onto the work area, tying open gate entries, lowering a scissor lift whilst the deck is still extended, using a machine that is too big for the work area (which leads to the risk of crushing injuries), and charging an electric machine in a confined space (this process produces potentially explosive hydrogen gas).

In summary, don't risk the lives of your employees and the future of your business by failing to follow the proper health and safety procedures. Get the training required by law and you will be operating not only safely but also far more efficiently and cost effectively.

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## NEW LEYTON DEPOT

AFI's new Leyton depot is at Unit 1, Forest Business Park, Argall Way, Leyton E10 7FB

Tel: 0208 521 2595

# AFI EXPANDS ITS RANGE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## AFI EXTENDS HARNESS RANGE

As part of its commitment to safe working practices, AFI has extended its range of harnesses to offer three different types.

The **BUDGET KIT** is ideal for the occasional user. This single point harness has a rear attachment point, adjustable leg straps and comes complete with an adjustable restraint lanyard.

The **STANDARD KIT** is ideal for the regular user. This fully adjustable two point harness has easy fit connectors, rip stitch indicators and also comes with an adjustable restraint lanyard.

The **COMFORT KIT** is designed for people who may be wearing a harness all day long. It has all the benefits of the Standard Kit plus comfort pads.

AFI's harnesses are lightweight and accredited to EN 361, whilst the accompanying adjustable restraint lanyard is accredited to EN 354. AFI is committed to best practice and fully supports the IPAF and CPA recommendation regarding the use of a harness and a fall restraint lanyard when operating a boom type platform.

## IPAF HARNESS COURSE

AFI offers the IPAF harness course at its training centres throughout the UK. Courses can also be arranged on site or at clients' premises subject to suitability.

Approved by the Major Contractors Group (MCG), this course covers the safe and appropriate use of harnesses. Topics include:

- Legislation
- Definition of work at height categories
- Suitable harnesses for MEWPs
- Correct fitting and adjustment of a full body harness
- Selection of lanyard
- Functions, operation and requirements of inertia devices
- Suitable anchorage points
- CE certification, conformity and record keeping
- Harness inspection
- Achievement testing



Wear a full body harness with a short lanyard in boom type platforms



AFI's new Comfort Harness Kit.

## TWO GREAT HARNESS OFFERS FROM AFI

**NEW 4 OLD:** Trade in your old harness and we'll give you an additional £10 off a new harness kit from AFI\*

**£10 OFF A NEW HARNESS KIT:** Order a new harness kit at the same time as booking a training place from AFI and we'll give you £10 off a new harness kit from AFI.\*\*

Call AFI now on 08707 871511

\* One old harness per one new kit. \*\* One new harness kit per training place. AFI reserves the right to withdraw these offers at any time. Offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

# EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES



*AFI's Small Pipe Carrier.*



*Large Pipe Stand.*

## MORE OPTIONS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS

**AFI is offering new sheet stand and pipe stand options for a number of its scissor lift ranges. These access solutions will enable customers to meet their deadlines and budgets without compromising quality or safety.**

### **SMALL PIPE CARRIER**

The AFI Small Pipe Carrier has been designed as an aid during installation of overhead pipe work. Light and easy to fit, it is ideal for smaller installations.

Suitable for use with 1,500 Skyjack electric scissor lifts in the AFI fleet, the Small Pipe Carrier can be fitted in minutes without modification to the scissor lift.

### **AFI LARGE PIPE STAND**

Suitable for use with a range of Skyjack electric scissor lifts, with working heights from 31ft to 50ft, the Large Pipe Stand is designed to aid the safe and controlled lifting of larger materials during the installation of overhead pipe work.



*Sheet Stand.*

### **SHEET STAND**

The AFI Sheet Stand is ideal for use in the installation of sheet materials and cladding panels, allowing secure loading, storage and manoeuvrability.

Reducing the need for manual handling, the Sheet Stand, offers a storage and work area for single sheets or multi-packs of cladding panels.



## AFI-UPLIFT PASSES ITS FIRST ACCREDITATION REASSESSMENT

**After becoming the first UK powered access rental company to achieve full 'BuildingConfidence' accreditation one year ago, AFI has now been successfully reassessed for the accreditation.**

The BuildingConfidence scheme is run by supply chain accreditation firm Achilles Information Ltd.

To gain the accreditation, companies have to demonstrate a high level of competence in the following areas – health and safety, quality assurance and control, environmental management, business continuity, subcontractor and supplier management, social and ethical controls, and plant and equipment management.

AFI Director Austin Baker said: "We are delighted to have passed our reassessment for the BuildingConfidence accreditation. This standard clearly demonstrates that we have the appropriate systems, processes and resources in place to meet the needs of our customers."

"An increasing number of customers are now taking the BuildingConfidence accreditation into account when selecting their suppliers," he added.

# MORE TRAINING COURSES NOW AVAILABLE FROM AFI-UPLIFT

AFI is extending the range of training courses offered to its customer base by introducing an additional range, in collaboration with Speedy Training.

The new courses cover Working at Height, Site Management, General Health & Safety, Street Works, and Confined Spaces. The courses are:

## WORKING AT HEIGHT

- MHW: The Management of Working at Height
- RTS: Rooftop Safety, including Safe Use of Harnesses & Ladders
- SSI: Scaffold Safety Inspection

## SITE MANAGEMENT

- HSA SSP: Health & Safety Awareness Site Safety Plus
- SST SSP: Site Supervisors' Safety Training Scheme Site Safety Plus
- SMS: Site Management Safety Training Scheme
- SMR: Site Management Safety Training Scheme Refresher
- ABC SSP: Achieving Behavioural Change Site Safety Plus
- CHSA: Construction Health & Safety Awareness
- IMS: IOSH Managing Safely
- MHT: Manual Handling Techniques

## GENERAL HEALTH & SAFETY

- FAP: First Aid Appointed Person
- FAW: First Aid at Work

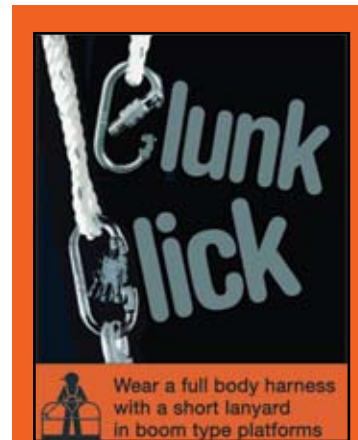
- CCNSG: Safety Passport Operative
- FWM: Fire Warden/Marshall

## STREET WORKS

- NRO: New Roads & Street Works for Operatives
- NRS: New Roads & Street Works for Supervisors

## CONFINED SPACES

- EC1a: Entry into Confined Spaces with Escape Breathing Apparatus
- EC2a: Entry into Confined Spaces with Escape & full working BA
- EC3b: Entry into Confined Spaces with Escape & full BA including basic FA, CPR & Resuscitation
- EC1c: Entry into Confined Spaces with Airline BA
- CSR: Confined Space Awareness for Responsible Persons



AFI fully supports the IPAF and CPA recommendation regarding the use of a harness and a fall restraint lanyard when operating a boom type platform.

To find out more about AFI's new courses and our existing range of IPAF, PASMA and Ladder Manufacturers' Association courses offered by AFI call:

# 08707 871511

or email: [training@afi-uplift.co.uk](mailto:training@afi-uplift.co.uk)

