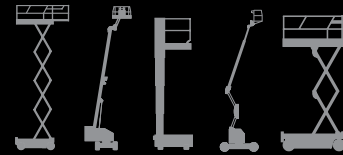


**SPECIAL
ISSUE**

Aerial View

AFI

U P L I F T



NOVEMBER 2011

TWO MAJOR STEPS TO INCREASE MEWP SAFETY



1

AFI'S Smart Zone system will make sure that only properly trained and authorised operators are able to use a MEWP.

2

AFI's Sanctuary Zone will protect the operator from one of the main MEWP hazards – being crushed against overhead obstructions.

IN THIS SPECIAL ISSUE OF AERIAL VIEW WE OUTLINE TWO MAJOR INITIATIVES BEING LAUNCHED BY AFI WHICH WILL BRING FAR REACHING IMPROVEMENTS TO SAFETY FOR OPERATORS OF MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORMS (MEWPS). WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THESE INITIATIVES WILL REDUCE DEATHS AND INJURIES.

FIRSTLY, we are introducing a system that will stop unauthorised use of MEWPs – so main contractors and sub contractors can ensure that the only people who can start up and operate a MEWP are those who are properly trained and authorised to do so.

SECONDLY, once that person is operating a MEWP we want to protect him from being crushed against overhead obstructions – this is one of the main causes of death and serious injury in the powered access industry.

See inside to find out more about our two initiatives to address these areas of great concern: the AFI Smart Zone card reader system and the AFI Sanctuary Zone.

SMART ZONE: CONTROLLING MEWP ACCESS & SECURITY

VERY POSITIVE FEEDBACK FOR NEW AFI SYSTEM

A new system being launched by AFI to revolutionise powered access machine safety by controlling access to Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) is receiving very positive feedback from the companies involved in its trials.

The new Smart Zone card reader system being introduced by AFI in association with Infobric is a first for the UK powered access industry. It will enable contractors to have full control over who operates what type of MEWPs on their

sites. This means that only those people who have received accredited operator training for the specific machine type in question will be able to operate that machine.

IPAF has been working closely with AFI on the launch of the system, and operators who are authorised by site managers for particular machines will be given prototypes of IPAF's smart PAL Card containing their details.

To unlock the machine, the operator swipes the card across an Infobric unit mounted on the machine. In a further safety measure, there is a customer option for the machine still not to unlock until the operator has confirmed that he has carried out pre-use inspection checks.

IN ACTION AT THE CARILLION MEDIA HUB

A number of the card readers have been fitted to machines working on the construction of a catering village which will serve 60,000 meals a day to journalists visiting the Carillion Media Hub in London. The catering village is being built by Premier Interlink and installed and fitted out by their sub contractors SJP Contracts. Here is the feedback on the card readers from those involved in the catering village project:

SEAN RATH, Carillion Integrated Management Systems Adviser, said: "The potential of the system is endless. For example, if a MEWP operator goes from one Carillion site to another we could use the system to check with the database that he has had the familiarisation training for the machines he would be operating on the next site.

"We have 250 MEWPs at work on the Media Hub and the Smart Zone system can prevent unauthorised use of any machine it's fitted on. There have been incidents throughout the UK where people have been hit by a machine or a vehicle that was being driven by someone who was not authorised to use it."



Sean Rath: Carillion.

"We can also keep a log of all the training that he's completed on a site, such as behavioural safety training. The main benefit of this system to Carillion is to prevent unauthorised use.



Mark Pniewski: SJP Contracts.

MARK PNIEWSKI, SJP Contracts Director, said: "When you are hiring plant you don't want someone from another company using your machine and diesel, possibly damaging it and risking injury to themselves and other people because they have not had the training required to operate it."



AFI machines working on the construction of the catering village.

"This new system will prevent this type of thing happening, so it can only be good for the industry."



Dave Denton: Premier Interlink.

Dave Denton, Premier Interlink Project Manager, also welcomed the security benefits of the Smart Zone system: "The most exciting aspect of this system is that when we leave a machine overnight or during a weekend, we know that no-one else will be using it. We will certainly be looking at rolling this out to other sites nationally," he said.

AFI'S NEW SANCTUARY ZONE WILL SAVE LIVES



Being crushed against overhead obstructions, resulting in death or serious injury, is one of the main hazards facing operators of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs).

In a move to save lives, AFI has developed the Sanctuary Zone – a steel structure that protects the machine operator from being crushed.

The Sanctuary Zone comprises steel frames that project above the machine platform, stopping any overhead obstruction from crushing the operator.

After developing the concept and producing initial drawings, AFI worked closely with the HSE and machine manufacturers Haulotte and Terex-Genie to develop the product. AFI is also in discussions with several other manufacturers about designs for their machines.

Whilst the initial designs are for boom lifts, AFI is also working with manufacturers to adapt this and other safety devices for fitting onto scissor lifts.

Austin Baker, Director of AFI's Health, Safety and Environmental Quality (HSEQ) Department, said: "If we accept that operators are placing their upper torso into areas that allow entrapment in the first instance then it is our duty to redesign that equipment in order that this risk is removed or minimised.

"There should be no reason why an operator needs to lift access into a position whereby he is forced to work in a hunched or bent over position."

"We believe that the Sanctuary Zone is the most important safety development in the powered access industry for many years. We are so convinced that it will save lives that we want to make it available to everyone, including our competitors," he added.

"Whilst some companies have looked at reverse engineering devices that interact with the safety systems, we felt that those systems were secondary in the hierarchy of safety. The Sanctuary Zone **prevents** operator injuries through crushing rather than reacting to the crushing once it has happened.

"It is interesting to note that it seems accepted within the industry that the cages of powered access equipment are often placed into areas that directly impinge upon the area that is designed for the operatives to stand. We routinely see operatives working crouched up to pass under beams or close to the undersides of overhead structures.



"This process must be stopped and these rails force operatives to respect their own safety. Once an operator is trapped we only have minutes to react and rescue them and we know that even if released quickly the likelihood is that they will have severe injuries. Obviously it is far better to prevent the incident from happening."

AFI has carried out field trials which have shown that the Sanctuary Zone does not impair the operators' work in any way.

The trials have, however, led to a refinement of the design. Initially the steelwork had a 90 degree angle on the leading edge which caught on safety netting.

"We changed this to a gradual curve and this has further improved safety because the curved rails keep the netting away from the operator and prevents snagging," said Mr Baker.

"At present the Sanctuary Zone frames are attached to the machine but we hope that in the future they will become an integral part of the machine's design.

"This important safety initiative for operators of mobile elevating work platforms has relied on collaboration between hirers, manufacturers and users, including machine operators.

"The involvement of the supply chain has been essential in developing potential solutions to a difficult problem."

SMART ZONE & SANCTUARY ZONE: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

SMART ZONE Q&As

Q: What needs to be installed on site to get the system up and running?

A: Providing the site has either a desk top or lap top computer with internet access, we simply email a link to the Infabric Ease website and issue the authorised person with a log in and password. However, if the site does not have a computer or internet access the machines and authorisations can be controlled and monitored remotely from either an AFI depot location or the customer's office.

Q: What happens if one of my operators loses his Smart Card, can we easily get another one?

A: Once the Smart Card has been fully developed it is expected that the procedure to replace one will be no different from replacing a standard PAL card. You apply for a replacement card through the training centre where you undertook your IPAF training, giving your contact details, and a new card will be issued. In the meantime, each site will hold a number of temporary cards which can be issued to the operator while he is waiting for his new Smart Card to arrive. It should also be noted that if a Smart Card is lost it can

be deactivated on the system so that anyone else finding it will not then be able to access a machine.

Q: Where is all the operator/company information stored, and is it secure?

A: The information is stored on a secure server, which has the same level of security as that used by banking networks.

Q: What happens if the system breaks down – will we still be able to start up our MEWPs?

A: If the system were to go down, anyone holding a Smart Card would be able to start up any MEWP, whether or not they were authorised to use that specific machine. However, all information about access would still be recorded, and when the system came back on line you would know who had used the machine.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of MEWPs or operators that can be controlled on one site by the system?

A: As each MEWP is a stand alone unit there is no limit to the number of MEWPs or operators on a site.

SANCTUARY ZONE Q&As

Q: If I hire a MEWP from AFI will the Sanctuary Zone be fitted to it already?

A: When requested as part of the hire, AFI will fit the Sanctuary Zone to the machine. In the future we hope that the Sanctuary Zone will become an integral part of a machine's design.

Q: My company has several boom lifts of its own – can we buy the Sanctuary Zone from you to fit to them?

A: Yes, and the Sanctuary Zone will also be available from other companies, including the machine manufacturers.

Q: Can the Sanctuary Zones be interchanged between machines from different manufacturers?

A: No, they are made specifically for each product range.

Q: Is any training required for my operators to use a MEWP fitted with the Sanctuary Zone?

A: Whilst training is not required for the Sanctuary Zone itself, we believe that an

operator should always have familiarisation training for the type of machine he will be using.

Q: When do you expect the first scissor lifts to be available with Sanctuary Zones?

A: We are working with a number of manufacturers and hope to be able to bring a design to market in due course.

YOUR AFI-UPLIFT POINT OF CONTACT

To find out more about the SMART ZONE card reader system and the SANCTUARY ZONE, or to request a demonstration of either or both of these initiatives, contact John Robertson:

Tel: 07793 579720.

Email: jrobertson@afi-uplift.co.uk

UK DEPOTS

AFI-UPLIFT

BIRMINGHAM ...
Tel: 0121 525 7226
birmingham.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

EAST MIDLANDS ...
Tel: 0115 975 3064
eastmidlands.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

HULL ...
Tel: 01482 341 799
hull.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

LIVERPOOL ...
Tel: 0151 545 2190
liverpool.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

LONDON CITY ...
Tel: 0208 521 2595
londoncity.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

LONDON EAST ...
Tel: 01277 812 976
londoneast.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

LONDON SOUTH ...
Tel: 01732 781 034
londonsouth.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

LONDON WEST ...
Tel: 01753 783 744
londonwest.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

MANCHESTER ...
Tel: 0161 707 7895
manchester.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

MILTON KEYNES ...
Tel: 01908 670 237
miltonkeynes.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

NORTH EAST ...
Tel: 0191 419 0757
northeast.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

PETERBOROUGH ...
Tel: 01733 206 638
peterborough.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

PRESTON ...
Tel: 01772 709 731
preston.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

SCOTLAND ...
Tel: 01698 844 655
scotland.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

SOUTHAMPTON ...
Tel: 08701 126 833
southampton.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

SOUTH WEST ...
Tel: 01278 446 580
southwest.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

WAKEFIELD ...
Tel: 01924 224 380
wakefield.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

AJ RENTALS

BRIDGEND ...
Tel: 01656 767 456
bridgend.depot@aj-rentals.co.uk

CALDICOT ...
Tel: 01291 437 710
caldicot.depot@aj-rentals.co.uk

SWANSEA ...
Tel: 01792 584 888
swansea.depot@aj-rentals.co.uk