



CONTENTS



Making a stand: Page 3



Training FAQs: Page 5



Achieving accreditation: Page 6



Tips on battery care: Page 7

AFI WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS DESPITE CHALLENGING CONDITIONS

By Richard Saunders,
Managing Director

Whilst UK trading conditions are challenging, particularly due to the credit crunch, AFI-Uplift remains confident that we will continue to make progress on developing our business and, in turn, our service to our customers.

We will continue to maintain customer focus, exceed your expectations with attention to detail (getting things right first time), and ensure we still exercise strong financial controls.

We are also continuing to increase our resources at depot level. We have improved our geographic coverage in the North West by opening a new depot in Preston



(Page 6) and will be relocating our depots in the East Midlands and the North East to new and larger premises during the summer.

This follows our respective acquisitions of Central Access and North East Access towards the end of last year.

With our in-depth resources, AFI goes from strength-to-strength

– we now have 263 staff in 17 depots throughout the UK, and a rental fleet of more than 4,300 machines.

We are totally committed to quality and customer service, and are delighted to announce that we have become the first powered access rental company supplying mobile

(Continued on Page 2)

4 for 3 on Training Courses

Send 4 delegates on an IPAF Operator training course, and pay for just 3!
Book now - places are limited!

Courses available at our training centres across the UK, on site or at your premises*.

Total cost for 4 delegates is £650. Offer available until 31st August 2008.

To book call AFI Training on 08707 871511



*providing the facilities are suitable

AFI WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS

(Continued from Page 1)

elevating work platforms in the UK to achieve full 'BuildingConfidence' accreditation under a scheme run by Achilles Information Ltd (Page 6).

Through AFI Direct – the operation for customers who hire nationally and put all their hire requirements through one central point – we have strengthened the team with the appointment of Les Wood to head up this operation (Page 8).

We have increased our service commitment by accepting orders at just 48 hours' notice for all core machines within our fleet. There will be no 'ifs or buts' – if you order a core machine on that basis through AFI we will guarantee to deliver.

Another key element of our commitment to customers is training. We continue to make significant investments in this area and are also now running the new **IPAF MEWPs for Managers course (Page 4)**, which ensures that managers are fully aware of their responsibilities in relation to powered access equipment.

So whilst economic conditions may be challenging, we will be maintaining our focus on providing the best possible service to you, our customers.

AFI-UPLIFT MACHINES

HELPING TO PUT THE FUN BACK INTO LEARNING ABOUT SCIENCE

AFI certainly don't recommend any operator attempting this method of getting off a scissor lift! However, the dramatic leap from the AFI machines shown in our photo was all done in the name of science – to show school children that science can be fun and interesting.

The experiment was carefully controlled by leading British scientists as part of a six-part series called 'The Big Experiment', shown on the Discovery Channel. The programme took the pupils from Royal Docks Community School in Newham, East London, through their GCSE science course in novel ways.

The AFI SJ8841E scissor lifts were used for an experiment in which children had to work out in the classroom how many helium balloons would be needed to suspend them in the air.

The children who calculated the most accurately were then able to take part in the experiment at Alexandra Palace in North London by leaping from the 40ft high platforms and slowly floating to the ground.

The experiments were devised with the help of specialist companies and tested by special effects experts and stunt co-ordinators prior to filming. A health and safety consultant also monitored every stage of development and filming.



INES IN ACTION



MAKING A STAND AT TRENT BRIDGE

AFI supplied a large articulated boom to help assemble steelwork on a new stand being built at the Trent Bridge cricket ground in Nottingham. With a working height of 26 metres and an outreach of 15 metres, the JLG 800AJ boom was hired by Anглиan Erection Services Limited, who worked on the project with their parent company, the SCWS Group.

As a major part of a £8.3m investment programme at the Trent Bridge ground, the new stand will provide a further 3,390 seats, bringing the capacity to over 17,000. Work is due to be completed in time for the forthcoming Test Match against New Zealand in June.



BOOM PERFORMS AT THE OPERA

This articulated boom lift worked tirelessly backstage at the renowned Glyndebourne Opera House in East Sussex to help carry out maintenance work.

Glyndebourne's maintenance team used the AFI JLG M600AJ boom to remove old cabling and lower 10 powerful light fittings in the scenery dock area to make them more accessible for future maintenance.

Staff selected the AFI boom for its working height of over 20 metres, its outreach of 13 metres and its bi-fuel capability, enabling it to operate emission-free within the Opera House. Switched to diesel for outdoor work, the machine also helped to access car park lighting and remove ivy from building facades.

Peter Moore, Building Services Manager at Glyndebourne, said: "I've hired powered access machines from AFI before, so I knew that they offered a very wide choice."

AFI-UPLIFT TRAINING UPDATE...AFI-U

Introducing the new MEWPS for Managers course



By Brian Parker
AFI-Uplift Training Manager

This new course was originally suggested to IPAF by the Health & Safety Executive due to the ever-increasing concerns about accidents and incidents on mobile elevating work platforms in industry.

The HSE said that generally when the accident/incident had been investigated a good proportion of them were due to lack of management control and supervision. This pointed the finger at the employer of the operator. It may well be the fact that the employer has indeed sent his employer

on an IPAF operator course thinking that when he comes back he will be "all singing and dancing" on the machines.

With an experienced operator this may well be the case, but when it comes down to the novice/recently qualified operator he might need quite a lot of support and supervision when he arrives back at the job, as all machines are different.

At the time of HSE's discussions with IPAF, I was a member of the IPAF training committee and had suggested at committee level that we should devise a course for managers so that it would create awareness of their responsibilities and requirements for planning and selection of MEWPs at work. HSE subsequently asked IPAF to write a course for the very thing I had proposed!

Immediately we sprung into action and with the help of other colleagues in the industry we set out the framework of the proposed course.

The course is predominately theory based, although there is also a section on 'hands on time' if required to show people the machines in depth, pre-use checks/functions/emergency lowering/platform controls etc...but it is not an operators' course. If delegates are successful they receive a MEWPs for Managers certificate. They do NOT receive a PAL card as the PAL card is only awarded to operators.

To book your place on the MEWPS for Managers course call AFI Training on 08707 871511.

JOURNALIST SAMPLES AFI TRAINING

AFI recently put Georgina Bisby, Editor of Health & Safety Matters, through an IPAF operator training course to give her first-hand knowledge of what the course involves.

The one day course covers the operation of booms and scissor lifts, with successful trainees gaining a PAL card to show they have been trained in the use of powered access equipment.

In her article on the course, Georgina said: "There are courses which sell you bits of paper and there are courses that genuinely help to promote safer working practices. This was the latter."



PROVIDING COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE UK

Birmingham

Tel: 0121 525 7226
Fax: 0121 525 5547

birmingham.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

East Midlands

Tel: 01332 870 113
Fax: 01332 874 555

eastmidlands.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Hull

Tel: 01482 341 799
Fax: 01482 345 099

hull.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Liverpool

Tel: 0151 545 2190
Fax: 0151 545 2199

liverpool.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

London East

Tel: 01277 812 976
Fax: 01277 814 568

londoneast.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

London South

Tel: 01732 781 034
Fax: 01732 887 425

londonsouth.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

London West

Tel: 01753 783 744
Fax: 01753 650 808

londonwest.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Manchester

Tel: 0161 707 7895
Fax: 0161 707 7896

manchester.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Milton Keynes

Tel: 01908 670 237
Fax: 01908 669 408

miltonkeynes.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

North East

Tel: 0191 442 1503
Fax: 0191 483 9707

northeast.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

LIFT TRAINING UPDATE...

Your most frequently asked training questions

In this article, AFI answers the questions most frequently asked by delegates attending our training courses.

Q How long does it take to get the licence through?

Our instructors process the course paperwork within three working days. This results in all IPAF/PASMA cards being at our Support Centre within a week of the course (subject to postal services). Once you have paid your invoice the cards will be sent to the person who booked the course.

Q Can you provide us with a temporary pass letter after the course has finished?

Delegates who attend an IPAF operators course are issued with an IPAF log book upon successful completion of the course. The first entry in the log book is the training course which the delegate has passed – this acts as a temporary licence. If there are any doubts about the authenticity of the log book, our head office telephone number is entered which will confirm if the delegate has passed. PASMA course have no facility for log books, however if you contact our training department after the course has finished then a temporary



pass letter can be faxed to you.

Q How many delegates can you train at any one time?

Courses are restricted to the amount of delegates/categories allowed. PASMA: 12 delegates, IPAF: 2 Categories – 4 delegates, 1 Category – 6 delegates. However, AFI-Uplift has a large number of instructors, and provided there are sufficient facilities to cater for larger numbers, courses can be 'doubled up' with additional trainers.

Q Why do I need to bring my own harness/lanyard?

Harnesses are classed as PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and as such should be issued

on a personal basis. AFI-Uplift does not supply any harnesses as they are issued to our instructors for their personal use. We do, however, sell the correct type of harness/lanyard for operators. These are available from AFI Training Instructors on the day of your course at a cost of £75.00 (+ VAT).

IPAF, in conjunction with the 'Clunk Click' campaign, have issued a technical guidance note for clarity of harness use in MEWPs (www.ipaf.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/en/H10505.pdf).

Q What's the benefit of having a licence? Why do I need to have one?

The law states that an employee must receive adequate training (HASWA 1974). MEWPs are also work equipment covered under 'The Provision and Use of Work Equipment' (PUWER). Regulation 9 states:

"Every employer shall ensure that all persons who use work equipment have received adequate training for the purposes of health and safety, including training in the methods which may be adopted when using the work equipment, any risks which such use may entail and precautions to be taken."

Q What does the course consist of?

Each course has its own syllabus and content – see the training section of our website: www.afi-uplift.co.uk.

Peterborough

Tel: 01733 206 638
Fax: 01733 205 791

peterborough.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Preston

Tel: 01772 709 731
Fax: 01772 759 488

preston.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Scotland

Tel: 01698 844 655
Fax: 01698 748 036

scotland.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

South Wales

Tel: 01656 767 456
Fax: 01656 657 361

southwales.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

South West

Tel: 01278 446 580
Fax: 01278 445 951

southwest.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Southampton

Tel: 08701 126 833
Fax: 08701 126 844

southampton.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

Wakefield

Tel: 01924 383 833
Fax: 01924 383 832

wakefield.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk

PRESTON DEPOT OPENS

See the article on
Page 6 for details
about our newly-
opened depot at
Preston.

AFI ACHIEVES ACCREDITATION 1ST

AFI-Uplift has become the first powered access rental company supplying mobile elevating work platforms in the UK to achieve full 'BuildingConfidence' accreditation under a scheme run by supply chain accreditation firm Achilles Information Ltd.

To gain the BuildingConfidence 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.

The accreditation follows a thorough and rigorous two day audit at AFI's Support Centre, where company management systems, controls and records were



examined in a number of areas. Going through the accreditation process led to AFI gaining one of the largest contracts ever awarded for the hire of powered access machines – the first phase of 'Media City:UK' at Salford Quays, Manchester. The project is being undertaken by Bovis Lend Lease, who stipulated that suppliers for the contract had to seek BuildingConfidence accreditation.

AFI Director Graham Osmond said: "We are delighted to have gained this accreditation. This new 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 considering the use of BuildingConfidence accredited suppliers, as was the case with Bovis Lend Lease for the Media City:UK contract."



The new Preston depot, and (inset) Danielle Whelan, Operations Controller, and Alan Cundliffe, LGV Driver.

PRESTON DEPOT STRENGTHENS AFI'S NORTH WEST OPERATIONS

In response to growing customer demand for renting powered access machines, AFI has chosen Preston as the location for its latest UK depot.

The new depot – at the Red Scar Business Park on Longridge Road – will begin with a fleet of 150 boom and scissor lifts, and AFI plans to significantly expand the number of machines during the next 12 months. The depot will offer full hire, sales, service and training facilities.

AFI Director Nick Higgins said: "We have been expanding our network of depots throughout the UK, and Preston is an ideal location to complement our other North West depots, at Manchester and Liverpool.

"The North West is a key area for AFI, and the addition of the Preston depot represents a

significant step forward for our activities in this area. AFI is moving forward across all aspects of the business – we are increasing our UK depot coverage, expanding our hire fleet and at the same time have increased our customer base by over 50 per cent."

The new Preston depot will service an area that includes Blackburn, Burnley, Blackpool, and from Lancaster to Barrow.

**PRESTON Tel: 01772 709731
preston.depot@afi-uplift.co.uk**

BATTERY CARE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In this article, AFI National Service Manager Tony Kelly advises on how to look after batteries when hiring electric powered access machines.

Ninety per cent of breakdowns or down time on battery powered access machines can be attributed to lack of maintenance of the battery pack.

This can be due to not checking the battery electrolyte or not giving the battery pack a full and proper charge. Follow the guidelines below and your hire machine will give you optimum productivity.

- When requesting an electric machine, ask what size transformer you will need to be compatible with your site's power supply and the requirements of the machine.

Charging the machine

- Always charge the machine in a well ventilated area that is free from any possible naked flames and any well-used walkways. Do not smoke when charging or checking a battery.

- Keep any charging leads as short as possible; this will aid both charging and avoid any possible trip hazard.

- Make sure that any lead – be it 110 volt or 240 volt – has been tested and is in good condition.

- Check that plugs are in good condition and fit correctly.

- When connecting the charging lead, make sure that it is in fact connected to the charger and not to the machine's power-to-platform plug.

- Check the battery charger's indicator to ensure it is charging. This indicator could be in the form of LED lights or an amp meter showing the input.



Battery inspection

- Always wear correct personal protection equipment – with eye protection and gloves being the minimum.

- Batteries must be topped up with clean distilled water.

- Clean the top of the battery before removing the vent caps.

- When checking the battery electrolyte, remove the vent caps one at a time and look down into the cell – the electrolyte should cover the plates by no more than 10mm.

- Check all connecting leads on batteries to making sure they are both clean and tight.

Dos and Don'ts

- Never check a battery's level when it is on charge or has just come off charge. This is because while charging or when just disconnected for charging, the battery will be giving off hydrogen gases which are highly inflammable.

- Do not top up a cell if the level is above the plates until the battery has been charged and allowed to rest for 15 minutes.

- If any battery acid comes into contact with skin it must be washed off immediately with clean water.

- If any battery acid should come in contact with eyes wash out with clean water as soon as possible and seek medical advice immediately.

- If the machine is to be on site for some time it is advisable to have an eye wash station close by.

How to get the most out of a battery powered machine

- Before starting the machine, check if it is fully charged.

- Make sure the charging lead has been removed from the machine and isolated from the power supply.

- Plan your work so as to get the most out of the charge time you have.

- If possible place the machine back on charge when not it use throughout the day.

- Avoid overloading the machine and driving it great distances.

- Try and keep work cycles short with rest periods in between.



Les Wood (centre) with AFI Direct team members (l-r) Kirsty Hindle, Andrea Whiting, Dave Wilde, Natalie Kelly.

AFI DIRECT APPOINTMENT

AFI has appointed Les Wood as Customer Services Manager of AFI Direct – the operation for customers who hire powered access machines nationally and put all their hire requirements through one central point.

Les has joined AFI after more than 25 years working in customer service roles in the construction industry. Reporting to AFI Director Nick Higgins, he is working closely with our regional operations managers on a series of customer service initiatives.

Les said: "These initiatives are designed to increase customer service standards, not only for AFI Direct customers but also throughout the AFI depot network. We will actively strive to exceed expectations and identify areas where we can perform even better.

"I'm delighted to have joined AFI Direct at a time when it is experiencing sustained growth. Over the past year there has been a 60 per cent increase in the number of major national customers who hire machines through AFI Direct."

HSE STATISTICS CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR INDUSTRY TRAINING

A total of 45 people died from a fall from height at work in 2006/07 – three fewer than the previous year, and a record low. However, the Health and Safety Executive figures for the year show that falls from height remain the most common kind of accident causing fatal injuries.

- Ladders, roofs and scaffold were the most common areas associated with a fatal injury to workers during 2006/07. There were 12 deaths from ladder falls, nine from roofs and five from scaffold.
- There were 3,750 major injuries, covering both employees and the self employed, as the result of a fall from height at work in 2006/07. This is a decrease of 43 on the previous year.
- Over a quarter of these major injuries were from ladder falls (1,050 injuries).
- In 2006/07 falling from height accounted for 27 per cent of all major injuries to employees in the construction industry, 14 per cent in agriculture, 13 per cent in the extraction and utility supply industries and 9 per cent in manufacturing and services.

These figures continue to highlight the need to carry out risk assessments on the safest way to work at height and to be properly trained in the use of access equipment.

To find out more about working safely at height and the wide range of training courses offered by AFI call:

08707 871511

or email: training@afi-uplift.co.uk



- BIRMINGHAM ...
Tel: 0121 525 7226
- EAST MIDLANDS ...
Tel: 01332 870 113
- HULL ...
Tel: 01482 341 799
- LIVERPOOL ...
Tel: 0151 545 2190
- LONDON EAST ...
Tel: 01277 812 976
- LONDON SOUTH ...
Tel: 01732 781 034
- LONDON WEST ...
Tel: 01753 783 744
- MANCHESTER ...
Tel: 0161 707 7895
- MILTON KEYNES ...
Tel: 01908 670 237
- NORTH EAST ...
Tel: 0191 442 1503
- PETERBOROUGH ...
Tel: 01733 206 638
- PRESTON ...
Tel: 01772 709 731
- SCOTLAND ...
Tel: 01698 844 655
- SOUTHAMPTON ...
Tel: 08701 126 833
- SOUTH WEST ...
Tel: 01278 446 580
- SOUTH WALES ...
Tel: 01656 767 456
- WAKEFIELD ...
Tel: 01924 383 833