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# IPAF upgrades accident reporting portal

IPAF has relaunched its worldwide accident reporting portal as part of a drive to gather global accident data and improve safety in powered access. The association hosted a virtual seminar to launch the update, which makes it easier to report accident or near miss information.

Chief executive Peter Douglas introduced an overview of the project, which he had helped to initiate while serving as a member of the IPAF UK Country Council in 2012, explaining why every IPAF member should be actively engaged in this life saving intelligence gathering. He added: "Since taking up post as CEO, it has been a key objective of mine to lend renewed impetus to the IPAF global incident reporting project. I am pleased that increasing numbers of members around the world see the benefits of feeding into this. I am confident that the new portal's layout and added functionality will only increase take up."

IPAF's new head of safety & technical Brian Parker outlined how the information can help, citing the example of how the data showed delivery driver incidents almost always involved the loading or unloading process, which led to development of the association's Load/Unload Training course which is due to be updated in 2021.



## Simulator use for IPAF PAL+ assessments



The use of virtual reality (VR) simulators as part of the assessment process with advanced operator training courses has been approved by the IPAF Council. Approved training centres delivering the PAL+ advanced operator course now

have the option of assessing candidates in a virtual environment as an alternative to the standard assessment using real work platforms and a special structure to operate around.

IPAF PAL+ is only open to existing valid Powered Access Licence (PAL) Card holders and demonstrates a higher level of proficiency and dexterity in carrying out the complex manoeuvres, often required for advanced construction, and plant maintenance applications etc...

Serious Labs developed the VR simulator and software platform with input from IPAF training providers, and the IPAF Training Committee is now "fully satisfied that the simulated test is a fair and exact representation of an assessment using real machines under the watchful eye of a human instructor."

IPAF training manager Paul Roddis said: "Our trials showed that VR simulators are well suited for testing control, observation and decision making required for conducting various advanced level operations and working intensively with the precision required for some critical applications."

Peter Douglas added: "IPAF is keen to collaborate with any company developing VR simulators to see how IPAF's training may be adapted to work on their platform and how the technology can be used to enhance work platform safety awareness training and familiarisation worldwide."



## IPAF 2020 rental market reports

IPAF has announced its 2020 global powered access rental market reports, which covers global aerial work platform market data since 2008, with a particular focus on 2019, gauging business sentiment and confidence from operators concerning the impacts of Covid-19. The 2020 IPAF global powered access rental market reports are available to order now at [www.ipaf.org/reports](http://www.ipaf.org/reports), with a discount available to IPAF members. An online presentation is also available to view online via the [www.ipaf.org/resources](http://www.ipaf.org/resources) page.

## IPAF Summit to go digital



The IPAF Summit & IAPAs scheduled to be held in London, UK, on 18th March next year will now be a digital event. The decision to host the event online was made due to ongoing uncertainty surrounding measures to slow the resurgence of the virus over the winter period.

Peter Douglas said: "While we hope the pandemic is under control by March, continuing international travel restrictions, as well as local regulations in the UK concerning the number of people allowed to gather indoors, mean those hoping to attend in person cannot plan with the degree of certainty required with just months to go until the event is due to be held."

## IPAF calls on UK to maintain red diesel tax rebate

IPAF has joined calls for UK chancellor Rishi Sunak to postpone plans to end tax relief on red diesel for construction equipment by 2022. Concerns raised include the increased cost and regulatory burden linked to withdrawing the rebate. Extended exemptions for some applications, such as agriculture, could also mean confusion for rental companies and their customers, and would be very difficult to administer and enforce. IPAF also voiced concerns that the black market in white diesel could be worth more than £100 million a year if the rebate is ended too soon.