



GOOD TIMES ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER



This issue of our PAC Overview happily coincides with the 5th Anniversary of the company since my acquisition of Powered Access Certification Ltd from The International Powered Access Federation, following my retirement from IPAF in 2003. It also coincides with the 14th birthday of the company, which was originally established, as a UK Notified Body, in September 1995.

Over these 14 years, without wishing to make extravagant claims, it is worth recording that members of the Board and Technical Officers', who have served with PAC, read rather akin to a "Who's Who" of the technical expertise from the early days of our industry.

Amongst our first Directors' were **Denis Ashworth**, former Technical Director of Simon Engineering (Dudley) Ltd, responsible for the design of a wide range of truck mounted platforms – the reliability of which played such a significant role in the early development of today's powered access rental industry, back in the 1960's and 1970's.

On his retirement from the HSE, **Bernard James** joined the Board, bringing his experience as the first HSE Senior Inspector, charged with safety within our industry, in those early days.

Amongst our original Technical Officers were **Dennis Hurren**, following his experiences as a Designer with Spencer Platforms and then with Simon Engineering (Dudley) Ltd.

Bob Kinsey, former Designer with ACS Platforms, producers of the ACKLIFT range of platforms, contributed in the early days, soon to be followed by the late **John Hocking**, who came to us with a vast amount of experience from the early days marketing Mark Lift platforms and later his own products, under the Pegasus name.

Ray Smith, one of the earliest US manufacturers with the Mite-E-Lift range of scissors, helped us in the USA in those early days.

Today, in December 2008, as we celebrate our 5th Anniversary as an independent company, our highly qualified technical team consists of **Tim Watson**, our Technical Director, with a life time's experience of all types of construction plant with John Laing and its subsidiary company, EPL International, where he developed his particular knowledge of the aerial platform industry and tower cranes. There is little doubt that his knowledge, in these areas, is second to none.

Peter Reed joined us after many years with Grove Europe Ltd at Sunderland, where his duties included the compilation of technical files for their access products, which equipped him so well for his work as a Technical Officer on the other side of the fence.

Darren Gibson, our digital electronics expert, joined us as a Technical Officer in 2003 and is often regarded, by people of my generation, as our "secret weapon". The

language of digital electronics, coupled with Darren's remarkable knowledge in this field, can be quite confounding to the uninitiated.

We have recently been delighted to recruit the services of **David Johns**, who spent many years working with Denis Ashworth at Simon Engineering (Dudley) Ltd and was destined to succeed Denis as Technical Director, had Simon's fortunes not declined so sadly.

Geoff Marshall spent many years as a Technical Officer, combining this with his work as Senior Internal Auditor of the IPAF Training Scheme and happily, is still undertaking valuable work as our own Internal Auditor.

Behind the scenes, **Brenda Williams**, who has been with us since 2002, keeps everyone in order and ensures that you receive your certification and invoices promptly and efficiently.

Our Accountant, **Sue Heath**, has been keeping the books since 1995 and performs this important role with great skill from the sunnier climes of the Bordeaux region of France.

The current Board of PAC consists of my wife, Ruth, as Chairman, who contributes both her management skills and humour to Board Meetings. I am Managing Director, Tim Watson is Technical Director and the Board is completed with Peter Reed. All members of the Board are shareholders, which motivates all of us to ensure that we maintain a high standard of customer service to all our clients.

I feel immensely proud of our team at PAC and am pleased that, over the past fourteen years, we have been able to share our wide range of skills with so many manufacturing clients producing a huge range of powered access equipment all over the world.

It is our intention to ensure that our skills match the ever changing technical development within our industry to ensure that our expertise keeps at least one step ahead of our clients requirements. With the challenging times that face us all, there is a universal need to work ever more closely together and we look forward to facing these challenges, which we have all faced before, in the certain knowledge that, to quote a song of the 1920's "the good times are just around the corner".



PAUL ADORIAN
Managing Director



THE NEW MACHINERY DIRECTIVE – ONE YEAR TO

By the end of December 2008, manufacturers of MEWPs and other machinery will have just one year in which to fully comply with the Essential Health and Safety Requirements of EC Directive 2006/42/EC, which comes into effect on 29th December 2009.

Over the last couple of years PAC has actively contacted all of its clients to advise of the impending changes of the new Directive and its effect on existing certification. As a consequence, we are currently working with a number of our clients and are well into the process of re-certification.

For products supplied into Europe after 29th December 2009, Type Approval certificates issued solely to the current Directive 98/37/EC will cease to be valid. It is important to note that this will have no affect on those products already sold into Europe, and currently in use, prior to this date. Only those that will 'continue' to be sold into Europe after the end of next year, and are currently certificated to 98/37/EC will be affected. These certificates must be reviewed to the new and



amended requirements of Directive 2006/42/EC.

It should also be noted that there are no 'grand-fathering' rights between the current and new Directives. Indeed, EC Notified Bodies undertaking the reviews are required to take into account the current 'state of the art' with regard to that type of machinery, and also to apply the latest versions of European harmonised standards.

For the majority of MEWPs this means applying the latest version of EN280:2001 incorporating the Amendment A1:2004. This has the greatest impact on equipment originally certificated to 98/37/EC taking guidance from earlier versions of the standard, such as prEN280 or EN280:2001 prior to the amendment.

Compliance with the requirements of the latest version of EN280:2001 generally means that two main areas of the standard must be adequately addressed. The first of these is ensuring that measures have been taken to 'avoid overturning' and 'exceeding permissible stress'. In other words, has load and/or moment sensing been fitted to the equipment? Secondly, the Amendment A1:2004 to EN280:2001 placed additional emphasis on safety related devices and associated systems. In certain areas of the machine, manufacturers are now required to demonstrate compliance with the specified levels of safety.

EC Declarations of Conformity issued with products will also be affected. After 29th December 2009, these documents will no longer be able to reference 98/37/EC since this Directive will be repealed after that date. Any declarations accompanying those products after the changeover must make reference to the new Directive 2006/42/EC.

Of course, if manufacturers choose to no longer offer certain products in Europe after 29th December 2009, then compliance with 2006/42/EC is not required. For products originally certificated in the early days of CE marking and the development of EN280, and those whose specification has not changed since that time, this may prove to be a favourable option. Otherwise, manufacturers should determine exactly what action is necessary to ensure a smooth transition when the new Directive takes effect.

If, as a manufacturer or supplier, you have not yet begun to address these important issues, we urge you not to leave it too late. Contact PAC now or you indeed may find that time has run out.....



PETER REED
Technical Officer

CHANGE OF ADDRESS REMINDER

Just a reminder to you all that we moved premises in March this year, the details of which are given below:-

Powered Access Certification Ltd., P O Box 98, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1WF

(For parcels by courier, please use Applethwaite Lodge, The Common, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1JQ

Telephone No:- ☎+44 (0)15394 44736 / Fax No:- +44 (0) 15394 48459 / E-Mail:- info@pac.uk.com / Web:- www.pac.uk.com

UPDATE ON THE REVISION OF EN280

In October this year CENTC98/WG1, the Working Group responsible for the revision of EN280, held a meeting in Mannheim at which it was agreed that the draft standard was in a fit state to be sent to CEN for public enquiry. It is anticipated that the draft standard will be available for public comment in February/March 2009, with a three month consultation period. Once the consultation period has finished and the comments have been received, the comments will be reviewed by the Working Group and a final draft prepared for

Formal Vote by the Member States of the EU.

During the preparation of the final draft the CEN consultant will examine the draft to ensure that it meets the Essential Health and Safety Requirements of the Machinery Directive. Once the CEN Consultant's work has been completed and any queries dealt with, the Formal Vote process will begin. Voting is carried out using the Qualified Majority Voting system, whereby voting is weighted according to the population of each Member State.

If the Formal Vote is positive, the standard will be prepared for publication

by the national standards organisation of each Member State and reference to the standard will be published in the EU Official Journal. This will signify that it is a "harmonised" standard and that compliance with the standard will give a "presumption of conformity" with the Machinery Directive. On the other hand, if the vote is negative the Working Group will have to review the objections of those Member States who voted against the draft and revise the document to overcome these objections. Once a new draft has been

completed, the Formal Vote process will begin again.

It is very much hoped that the revision to EN 280 will get a positive vote first time around, in which case the revised standard should be published in 2011.



TIM WATSON
Technical Director



MORE "POWER TO OUR ELBOW".



We were very pleased to welcome a new Technical Officer this year, who brings with him yet more valuable experience to our team, having been employed, for twenty years, with Simon Engineering (Dudley) Ltd – for so long the world's leading manufacturer of Hydraulic

Platforms, as they used to be known.

David Johns, B.Sc., joined Simon as a Draughtsman in 1969, working his way to Contracts and Engineering Manager in 1989. But for the economic downturn which affected the Simon Engineering Group's fortunes at that time, it is quite probable that David would have become Technical Director of Simon Engineering (Dudley) Ltd upon the retirement of Denis Ashworth, with whom he worked for so long.

Subsequently, David held a number of Senior Directorial appointments with engineering companies in the West Midlands until 1995, when he established his own engineering and fabrication company, in which he still maintains an interest.

During his time with Simon, David was involved in the design and manufacture of a wide range of truck mounted platforms, which sold in civilian and fire fighting form throughout the world and his work there culminated with the Simon S and SS600 Models – the world's first 60m (200ft)

truck mounted aerial work platform, which was taken up eagerly by the plant hire industry and featured prominently following the infamous Chernobyl incident.

David brings his huge amount of hands-on design and manufacturing experience directly related to our industry and is making a valuable contribution to both our certification and technical advisory service.

Paul Adorian
Managing Director

WHAT IS FORESEEABLE MISUSE?

Machinery Directive 98/37/EC states that manufacturers must consider not only the normal use of the machine but also uses which could reasonably be expected. This relates both to the safe design of the product and also when writing the operating instructions. This immediately raises the question with manufacturers as to what 'could reasonably be expected'? Or, put another way, where is the delineation between intended use, foreseeable misuse and abuse of the product?

Intended use is the use of the product for the purpose for which it was designed and in the way normally prescribed in the instructions. It is therefore important that this is stated in the instructions, and also that any uses other than those stated are not

permitted unless approved by the manufacturer.

Reasonably foreseeable misuse is defined in the new Directive 2006/42/EC as 'use of machinery in a way not intended in the instructions for use, but which may result from readily predictable human behaviour'. The key phrase here is human behaviour and the question that a manufacturer must ask therefore is 'is an operator likely to do this ...?'

We all know from experience that if there are two ways in which to undertake a particular task, usually the easiest or quickest method will be chosen. If either of these methods means making the machine less safe, then usually measures are introduced to automatically prevent any reduction in safety. One example is a load sensing system, which prevents overloading the

work platform and thus require several safe lifts rather than a single, potentially dangerous, lift. Such safety issues have become a requirement of harmonised standards like EN280:2001. However, standards are not drawn up with every possible operating scenario in mind, which is where the manufacturer must undertake a risk assessment to determine any other limiting factors of the machine.

On the other hand, the manufacturer cannot be expected to foresee every possible situation or the even the capabilities of every operator using the machine. If the manufacturer is able to demonstrate via, say, stability or structural calculations, that the product will remain safe if not used *exactly* as intended, then that may be more acceptable than

relying on an operator's judgement. Another way to look at it is to play the role of a safety inspector and ask the question 'did you not expect that someone would do that sooner or later?'

It should be noted that foreseeable misuse does not preclude irrational behaviour, this is where actions taken by operators fall more into the area of abuse. This can include deliberate actions taken by the operator to over-ride safety devices, thus making the machine less safe.

Further background on foreseeable misuse will be included in the guidance to the new Machinery Directive, which is currently being drafted and will be available on-line.

PETER REED
Technical Officer



PAC Ltd returned to APEX 2008 with a stand in the main exhibition hall. This provided a great opportunity to meet with many existing and potential clients and to hold detailed discussions on the forthcoming changes to EC Directive 2006/42/EC and our industry standard, EN280, which will affect all manufacturers of MEWPs.

PAC staged a useful presentation during the Conference Session (pictured left), where Technical Director, Tim Watson and Director Peter Reed, both Technical Officers, with many years experience of the industry and CE certification matters in particular, presented the all important changes to the Directive, which will come into force on the 29th December, 2009.

This useful information is available on PAC memory sticks, which were provided to attendees at the Show and can be made available, as long as stocks last, on a free of charge basis, to interested parties.