



ORGANIZZAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE TRASPORTI A FUNE
INTERNATIONALE ORGANISATION FÜR DAS SEILBAHNWESEN
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRANSPORTS A CÂBLES
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR TRANSPORTATION BY ROPE
ORGANISACION INTERNACIONAL DE TRANSPORTES POR CABLE

OITAF NEWS

2nd Half-year 2003

The same issue has been published:
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President's foreword

Dear NEWS readers

In the Spring issue of the NEWS we had given a first progress report on the transposition of the European Directive relating to ropeway installations. So far I have been informed all member countries of the European Union expect to have implemented the necessary measures by the end of 2004. Unfortunately in my view and as shown in particular by the results of the last meeting the Standing Committee on Ropeways set up by the European Commission has held on October 22, 2003 in Brussels this does not mean that all problems and unsolved questions will have been solved by that time. O.I.T.A.F. is one of the parties that are being consulted by the European Commission and therefore believes that more time ought to be devoted, in particular by own committees, to an in-depth discussion of all pending administrative and technical issues relating to the transposition of the European Directive. O.I.T.A.F. has also decided to organize a Round Table discussion to be held in Grenoble on April 22, 2004 and attended by high level senior representatives of the EU Commission.

Next to issues related to the EU Directive the work programme of O.I.T.A.F. covers other issues that are not directly related to this directive but involve interests and responsibilities of both member and non-member countries of the European Union. For instance issues related to the transportation of children by chairlifts which are being dealt with in a special working group set up by O.I.T.A.F. It is quite obvious that information about the results of this working group's work will be circulated in due time.

I wish to express to all of you my deep gratitude for your lasting interest and support, thank in particular the chairmen and members of O.I.T.A.F committees for their valuable contributions, thank also our Secretary General, Dr. Brugger, for his indefatigable devotion to O.I.T.A.F.

With the best wishes for a successful year 2004

Horst KÜhschelm

Secretary General's introductory note

In this issue of the NEWS you will find again reports on the latest activities of the leading bodies of O.I.T.A.F and O.I.T.A.F. committees. Reports on the activities of the 6 committees and the two working groups are partly based on the minutes of their last meetings to the extent they were sent to me or are actually the reports written by the chairmen of the committees and convenors of the working groups for their publication in the **O.I.T.A.F. NEWS**.

As for the other reports, in particular reports on the international activities my reports are essentially based on verbal communications or written reports submitted by involved participants which are in turn based on the notes they have taken. I have always tried and will try to give a possibly accurate version of their communications. As for this it should not be forgotten that we depend on and have to provide translations from and into German and the three other working languages of O.I.T.A.F.

Which means that this time again I am going to report not only on the regular activities of the organisation but also on international events of interest for the ropeway industry that have been attended by O.I.T.A.F or involve the direct contribution or participation of O.I.T.A.F. members..

And in saying that I am referring in particular to ITTAB (International meeting of technical ropeways supervisory authorities) CEN and the European Union.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION

During the second half of 2004 the Management Committee met once and the General Organisation Committee of the 2005 O.I.T.A.F. International Conference met twice in Innsbruck..

No meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the second half of the year.

As for the administrative work it should be pointed out that O.I.T.A.F. activities and in particular the technical recommendations issued by O.I.T.A.F are rousing an ever increasing interest in all continents of the world, and in particular in Asia. This means that an ever increasing number of e-mail communications and requests for information, on an average at least two each day, have to be processed, answered and of course translated.

Meeting of the Management Committee

The Management Committee met on October 2, 2003 on the eve of the O.I.T.A.F. Seminar which had been organised within the framed of the ALPITEC Exhibition. In his opening address of the ALPITEC Exhibition Dr. Horst Kühschelm, taking advantage of his position as President of O.I.T.A.F., outlined the scope and objectives of our worldwide organisation



The President of O.I.T.A.F at the opening ceremony of ALPITEC

In the first row



The 1st vice-president of O.I.T.A.F. Jean Charles Simiand and the President of O.I.T.A.F. Horst Kühschelm
(picture made available by Ing. Klaus Hönigsberger)



At the ALPITEC
Dr. Spacek, Dr. Brugger und Dr. Kühschelm

At their meeting the Management Committee addressed the following issues

- Collection of court decisions
Ways and means of financing an Internet publication of an international collection of court decisions and survey of legal criteria adopted by courts in countries with a ropeway industry.. In order to facilitate the retrieval of a specific sentence the committee n° 4 have drawn up a specific legal glossary listing the necessary keywords. This project is intended as a first world wide web INTERNET information tool.

- O.I.T.A.F. International Conference 2005 in Innsbruck
The Committee had a long exchange of views on the O.I.T.A.F. international Conference 2005 and confirmed the decisions that had been taken at the last meeting of the Management Committee. It has been decided to adopt a new structure, to have no "Call for papers" as in past editions of the conference but to ask a limited number of lecturers, yet to be chosen, to deliver lectures on the industry's visions of the future. For further information read the report on the meetings of the General Organisation Committee.

- O.I.T.A.F. Work Committees
The Management Committee has invited the chairmen of O.I.T.A.F. Committees to submit detailed reports on the activities of their committees. For detailed information read the reports on the activities of O.I.T.A.F. committees.

- O.I.T.A.F. Annual seminar
The Management Committee have decided to organise the next O.I.T.A.F. Seminar in conjunction with SAM in Grenoble on April 22, 2004. The final decision on the general theme of the seminar shall be taken by the Executive Committee at their meeting in January 2004.

Meetings of the General Organisation Committee of the O.I.T.A.F. International Conference 2005 in Innsbruck

In the last issue of **O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS** we published a first announcement of future meetings of the General Organisation Committee of the 9th O.I.T.A.F. International Conference . Accordingly two meetings of the General Organisation Committee were held in Innsbruck, the first on September 12, and the second on October 30, 2003 the local organisation committee having done the necessary preparatory work for the General Organisation Committee to be able to take decisions.

The following members of the Management Committee have been asked to serve as members of the General Organisation Committee

Horst Kühschelm (President of O.I.T.A.F.)
Jean Charles Simiand (vice-president of O.I.T.A.F.), Francesc Cullerè (vice-president of O.I.T.A.F.) Sandro Lazzari (President of FIANET), Ingo Karl (President of Fachverband Seilbahnen der Wirtschaftskammer Österreich and Chairman of the General Organisation Committee). Jim Fletcher (vice-president of OITAF-NACS). Peter Feuz (Auditor of O.I.T.A.F.) Heinrich Brugger (Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F.) Georg Lamp (Director of the Conference Center Innsbruck) Michael Seeber (Leitner), Michael Doppelmayr (Doppelmayr), Helmut Lamprecht (Wirtschaftskammer Österreich, Sektion Tirol, local organisation committee) Erik Wolf (Wirtschaftskammer Österreich, Fachverband Seilbahnen, local organisation committee)

The Management Committee having decided to launch no „Call of papers“ but to have a number of chosen lecturers deliver lectures on a number of chosen subjects the meeting agreed to have lectures on the following subjects :

- Business management, law

- Technology
 - Research and Development
- They further decided to have also two keynote speakers who are to cover additional subjects, such as for instance Trends and Lifestyle, visions and other subjects to be chosen at free will
- The meetings also exchanged views on the preliminary budget estimate submitted by the Congress centre, as well on the working languages of the conference and interpretation, social events and additional events before and after the conference.
- The General Organisation Committee agreed to have their next meeting on January 21, 2004 in Innsbruck.

O.I.T.A.F. Seminar held in Bolzano on October 3, 2003



The president of the O.I.T.A.F. at the opening

True to the announcement made in the last issue of **O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS** O.I.T.A.F. has chosen to organize in conjunction with AL-PI TEC a seminar on

“OPTIMISATION OF THE OPERATION OF ROPEWAY INSTALLATIONS”

All the preparatory work both technical as well as the choice of subjects to be covered and the choice of lecturers has been carried out under the responsibility of O.I.T.A.F. committee 4 and the actual material organisation on the spot carried of by the O.I.T.A.F. Secretariat. Once again the seminar has been a great success owing to the close collaboration between the chairman of committee 6, Francis Couzet, the

Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F. and its staff . The seminar was attended by 175 participants from all parts and continents of the world, Brasil, the United States, India and Japan, out of 213 registrations the organisers had received.



Pictures taken during the seminar

O.I.T.A.F. – Seminar to be held on April 22, 2004 in Grenoble

Another seminar is to take place in 2004. The Management Committee have decided to organise the seminar in Grenoble on April 22, 2004 within the framework of SAM.

The intention being to organise a round table which is to address the following subject

„THE EU DIRECTIVE 2000/9/EC RELATING TO ROPEWAY INSTALLATIONS DESIGNED TO CARRY PERSONS AND ITS APPLICATION“

and to invite representatives of the EU Commission, manufacturers and operators, as well as representatives of supervisory authorities and notified bodies

The Executive Committee are expected to take at their meeting in January 2004 a final decision with regard to the title of the seminar, the names of lecturers and the title of their lectures. Details will be published in due time in our Internet homepage

Your are therefore kindly requested to open our Internet Homepage (www.oitaf.org) for you to get timely additional information on the seminar and load down registration forms.

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

ITTAB (International Meeting of technical supervisory authorities

The 52. International Meeting of Technical Supervisory Authorities was held this year in Tälberg (Sweden) from September 8 to 10. The meeting was attended by 38 representatives of the technical supervisory authorities of the following countries :

Andorra, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.

Likewise they did in past meetings delegates availed themselves of this opportunity to exchange information on most significant ropeway incidents and accidents.

The meeting's agenda has been dealt with in six working sessions and all participating supervisory authorities have been given time to present their statistical surveys showing the number of passengers and number of accidents and incidents. It should be pointed out that the structure of supervisory authorities varies from one country to another and that their area of responsibility is in some instances restricted to a region or Land, in other instances encompasses the whole national territory. This is the reason why some supervisory authorities cannot report detailed data for their country. With this reservation the figures are as follows

Funiculars	189
Bicable reversible aerial ropeways and monocable reversible aerial ropeways	458
Bicable uni-directional aerial ropeways	31
Gondola lifts	603
Double monocable uni-directional aerial ropeways	19
Pulsed movement aerial ropeways (reversible and uni-directional)	34
Detachable grip chairlifts	1.379
Fixed grip chairlifts	5.245
Other ropeway systems	108
Ski tows	12.968

Figures reported by the supervisory authorities show that a total of approximately 4 thousand million passengers had been carried in the surveyed year

As in past meetings delegates exchanged views on technical questions, such as for instance transportation of children on chairlifts (an issue which is being dealt with by an

O.I.T.A.F. working group) "Up-hill conveyance of passengers in ski areas (i.e. a system which is neither an aerial nor a surface lift, yet very often operated by ropeway operators and hence a reason why delegates wished to know relevant technical regulations and the controlling body entrusted with the responsibility to supervise this type of conveyance systems), the transposition of the EU Directive 2000/9/EC relating to cableway installation designed to carry persons in member countries.

The social events offered delegates additional opportunities to exchange views and discuss details of reported ropeway accidents and incidents.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place in autumn 2003 in Italy.

EU Directive and CEN Standards

EU Directive

In the last issue of **O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS** readers will have learned that a document specifying guidelines for the application of the EU Directive 2000/9/EC had been commissioned by the EU Commission. Monsieur Soury Lavergne wishes us to put right a mistaken information we had given in the last issue. Indeed the mandate to draft guidelines for the application of the Directive has not been given to the organisation of ropeway operators FIANET (International Federation of National Associations of Ropeway Operators) and to the International Association of Ropeway Manufacturers, IARM. The mandate has been given to Monsieur Soury Lavergne and the contract has indeed been stipulated and signed by the EU Commission and Monsieur Soury Lavergne. Having received this mandate Monsieur Soury Lavergne set up a working group and invited the above associations, i.e. two of the three supporting columns of the ropeway industry, to join the working group and help drafting guidelines having the purpose to facilitate the application of the EU Directive in EU member countries. It should also be pointed out that another mandate has been given to Monsieur Soury Lavergne by CEN, and not by the EU Commission, requesting him to assess the conformity of EN standards with essential requirements of the Directive. The work

mandated by CEN is under way and progressing in a satisfactory manner.

The working group convened by Monsieur Soury Lavergne held another meeting on December 17 and 18, 2003 in Goldau and has discussed at length problems involved by envisaged certification (or rather conformity assessment and CE marking) of spare parts for installations that will have taken up service before May 4, 2004. The discussion has shown that certification of spare parts for existing installations would be a problem and cause difficulties to both the operators and the manufacturers of ropeways. This is why it has been decided to become active within the shortest delay possible and submit this issue to the competent services of the EU Commission. A report on the outcome of this action will be published in the next issue of **O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS**.

Notified bodies

The following notified body has to be added to the list published in the last issue of **O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS**

Notified Body (Id. N. 1339) Schupfer – ÖQS, Obermieming 148 A, A-6414 MIEMING

EU Commission's Standing Committee on Directive 2000/9/EC relating to cableway installations designed to carry persons

This year's third meeting of the Standing Committee was held in Brussels on October 22. There was a first part of the meeting with the right to participate restricted to representatives of EU member countries and a second part of the meeting open to invited observers representing EFTA countries, the EU candidate countries, CEN, international associations of the ropeway industry and notified bodies. Attendance having been extended to international association of the ropeway industry, representatives of O.I.T.A.F., as well as of the international association of ropeway manufacturers and that of ropeway operators, FIANET, have attended the meeting. O.I.T.A.F. was represented through its Secretary General.

Both these meetings were chaired by Mr. Daniel Bunch and Mrs Belén-Niceas Martínez Arriola representing the EU Commission at this meeting.

Delegates attending the morning session were delivered reports on the transposition of the EU Directive into the national legislation of EU member countries showing that latest by the end of 2003 all members countries will have transposed the Directive.

Next to these progress reports there were also reports on likely difficulties resulting from the application of the Directive. Considering that so far only few bodies have been notified in Brussels and that the industry expects to install, commission and put to service many ropeway installations by autumn 2004 it might indeed prove difficult to assess in due time the conformity of all safety components that need to be certified in 2004. CE marking of spare parts for existing ropeway installations was the other issue which the meeting discussed at length. The discussion has shown that delegates have contrasting views on this subject matter.

In the afternoon participation was extended to representatives of EFTA countries, the EU candidate countries and international associations of the ropeway industry.

Among others the meeting addressed the following issues :

- Progress reports on the approval of CEN standards
- The responsibility of manufacturers, notified bodies and supervisory authorities
- Certification of spare parts for existing ropeway installations. Manufacturers, operators and the representatives of the EU Commission availed themselves of this opportunity to justify their contrasting views on this issue. With a view to establishing the free market and exchange all safety components and subsystems placed on the market all safety components and subsystems shall have to be CE marked starting from May 4, 2004. According to the Commission this requirement applies to components, subsystems and spare parts because there cannot be two different markets, one for certified and another for non-certified safety components. It is felt that notified bodies will not have to face serious problems or find it difficult to assess the conformity of existing safety components seen that it may a priori be assumed that they meet essential safety requirements. Seen that no safety analysis needs to be made for existing

ropeway installations, their safety components have not been identified by an analysis. Their spare parts have been placed on the market at the time the installation has been built. The Directive contemplates only cableway installations and safety components placed on the market after May 3, 2004. The Directive's scope is restricted to the construction of new installation and is not applicable to maintenance i.e. spare parts that are needed to maintain an installation in good order. In some instances it is not possible to certify spare parts, because spare parts are not necessarily conform to essential requirements, have not been designed for fatigue or fire resistance and may have controls that do not necessarily meet requirements, etc.)

- Progress of the guide for the application of the Directive. Monsieur Soury Lavergne refers particular on the following questions :

- Interface between infrastructure and subsystems and safety components of cableway installations
- Elaboration of safety analyses of cableway installations and their verification

The guide to be produced ought to give guidance on ways and means to address the above subjects and the certification of spare parts for existing cableway installations

- Coordination of notified bodies under the guidance of the EU Commission

Under the Directive the Commission has the faculty to coordinate the work of notified bodies so as to promote close collaboration of all bodies and ensure uniform application of the modules.

To this end the Commission has set up an administrative and a technical secretariat having the task to organize meetings and get the necessary documents and draw up recommendations.

CEN standards

No further meeting of CEN TC 242 has been called after the last meeting in Berlin in April 2003

This however does not mean that the working groups of the technical committee and appointed experts i.e. the project group for the assessment and elimination of contrasting regulations (project group having the

task to assess and eliminate contrasting regulations in the package of 13 standards and the group of experts having the task to verify whether standards contain the necessary elements to be referred to for an assessment of the conformity and last but not least whether the set of CEN standards is conform with the essential requirements of the Directive. As a result of their work experts have suggested amendments to the standards they felt ought to be done in order to improve the structure and wording of the standards and thus contribute to a better transparency of the package without however affecting the actual substance of the standards.

All draft standards, except standards relating to carriers (prEN 13796-1, 13796-2, 13796-3) and the standard on terminology (prEN 1907) have already been released for final vote and submitted to the competent CEN bodies in Brussels. Hence the date of enforcement depends on the time these bodies will need to process these standards.

PrEN 13796 Carriers – Present situation

The working group on Carriers have met several times and have finalized the draft standards relating to carriers.

In particular they have completed the discussion of comments arising from the public enquiry on prEN 13796, part 1 (Grips, carrier trucks, on-board brakes, cabins, chairs, carriages, maintenance carriers, tow-hangers) : the final draft will be submitted for final adoption to the next meeting of CEN TC 242 to be held in Paris on March 25 and 26, 2004

PrTR – Fire prevention and control – Present situation

The technical report prTR 00242032 on „Fire prevention and control, part 1 : Tunnel funiculars” has been submitted for approval to member bodies.

The technical report prTR 00242032 on „Fire prevention and control“ part 2 : Other funiculars and cableways” is at present being drafted and will be put on the agenda of the next meeting of the Technical Committee to be held in March 2004.

Data recording devices. Present situation

The working group chaired by Ing. Andrea Fornasa, EEI, Italy, who have been given the remit to draft standards for data re-

ording devices, met last in December 2003 after a long interval. The working group are expected to submit a draft proposal for data recording devices.

Harmonised standards relating to ropes for cableway installations

In order to support the application of the EU Directive 2000/9/EC relating to cableway installations designed to carry persons the EU Commission has published in the Official Gazette of April 24, 2003 C 97/10 the following harmonized standards:

EN 12385-8:2002

Steel wire ropes – Safety – Part 8

Stranded hauling and hauling-carrying

ropes for ropeway installations designed to carry persons

EN 12385-9:2002

Steel wire ropes – Safety – Part 9

Closed coil track ropes for ropeway installations designed to carry persons

Gassmann has left us



We received the shocking news after copy deadline : Hans Rudolf Gassmann died on January 12, 2004 at the eve of his sixtieth birthday.

He had joined the Swiss Federal Office for Transports in 1985 and was appointed head of the Ropeway Department in 1986 which he has been ever since. Having received his diploma as academically trained mechanical engineer at the Higher Technical School of Engineers in Burgdorf he went to the Technical University in Zurich and wrote there his PhD thesis on the friction and wear phenomena of on-board brakes under the guidance of Prof. Zweifel. While at the University he also published results of another important research work he has carried out

on torsional moments in carrying-hauling ropes of unidirectional aerial ropeways. Having completed his research work he left the University and entered the Technical Service of the company von Roll. And from there he moved on to the Swiss Federal Office for Transports and was appointed head of the Ropeway Department after Fritz Winkler's retirement.

His professional activity was marked by his enthusiasm, his ambitions and zest, his commitment to and promotion of the technical development of ropeway installations and efforts made to improve administrative procedures, his openness for innovative ideas which made him spare no trouble to introduce and have accepted innovative ideas.

While still at the University in 1978 he attended for the first time the annual meeting of technical supervisory authorities, ITTAB, which he attended regularly thereafter first as expert and in the years 1986 to 1996 as head of the Swiss delegation. He was known for the excellency of his technical contributions to ITTAB'S work.

The lectures he delivered to ITTAB meetings, seminars or in other circumstances were imbued by his interest and awareness of the problems of the day and offered answers and solutions which have lost none of their validity till to-day.

For ten years, from 1986 to 1996, he had served as member of the Management Committee and representative of the Swiss Federal Office for Transports . Ever since 1986 he was also member of the O.I.T.A.F. committee n° 1. In either committee he made highly appreciated contributions to the committee's work and discussions.

The same holds true for his stimulating and way-setting activity as member of CEN TC 242 and his precious contributions to the European standardization.

As for me, I must say, that Hans Rudolf Gassmann was definitely the most honest and most straightforward person I have met and worked with in my life. Whenever I talked with him the discussion was highly productive, innovative, direct and refreshing. His sense of humour and conviviality are two traits of his character none of us will ever forget.

Dear Hansruedi, thank you for your commitment to O.I.T.A.F, we will keep you in everlasting memory.

ACTIVITIES OF O.I.T.A.F. WORK COMMITTEES

O.I.T.A.F. WORK COMMITTEE 1 : Ropeway engineering and technical recommendations

Chairman : Dipl. Ing. Dr. Peter Sedivy, Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie

Accepting an invitation extended by Norske Veritas the committee met for their second meeting of the year 2003 on September 15 and 16 in Trondheim (N) 16 members of the committee and the committee's interpreter Mrs. Renata Rassini Penso attended the meeting. The meeting addressed the only item of the agenda, i.e. the discussion of hazard scenarios associated with the different components of a cableway installation. The tables of hazard scenarios drawn up by volunteering members of the committee were used as working documents for the discussion in Trondheim. By so doing the committee have by now completed the tables listing the hazard scenarios associated with a number of chosen components. Additional work needs to be done to draw up lists of hazards of components which have not yet been addressed by the committee.

Considering the extent of work yet to be done the committee decided to hold three meetings in 2004. They also decided to compile tables of hazard scenarios associated with stations and the conveyance equipment of stations. On the other hand the committee decided to neglect altogether electrical monitoring and safety devices or to ask another OITAF committee to describe hazard scenarios associated with electrical monitoring and safety devices.

So far the committee have completed, except may be for a final editorial review or final discussion, the following chapters of the technical recommendation

Introduction, mechanical equipment of stations, suspensions, grips, tensioning devices, chairs, carriages, up-hill conveyance belts, evacuation equipment and drives

The following parts of the technical recommendation still require a thorough in depth discussion

Ropes and end fixings, carrier trucks, brakes, stations and their conveyance equipment

The committee chose to have their next meeting in Bregenz (A) on February 16 and

17, 2004. The second meeting of the year is scheduled to take place in the first days of May.

WORKING GROUP set up by

committee 1: Non public ropeways

Material handling ropeways and cable-cranes

Convenor of the working group : Dr. Ing. Achille Bonini, Rome

After the meeting in Capri (I) on May 29 and 30, 2003, the outcome of which had already been reported in the spring issue of **O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS** the working group met again in Sitzendorf (Germany) on October 20 and 21 close to the building site of the Leibis Lichte barrage. They were indeed taken to the building site and were shown the extremely interesting cable crane that spans across the barrage. The patron himself welcomed visitors and took part in an exchange of views on standards for and experience so far made with this type of installations

The working group believe they will have to meet three times in 2004 to finalize the draft recommendation prior to its submission to the Management Committee

The working group have chosen to have a meeting

on January 15 and 16, 2004 in Lucerne to be organized by Fritz Meyer

A second meeting is due to take place on March 25 and 26, 2004 in Bourg Saint Maurice organized by Daniel Michel and will include a visit of the bicable reversible aerial ropeway "Vanoise Express" with gondolas for 200 persons. The third meeting is to take place in the second week of May in Italy and will be organized by the convenor of the working group.

O.I.T.A.F. WORK COMMITTEE NR. 2

Characteristics and inspection of ropes

Chairman : Laurent Reynaud, STRMTG – Supervisory authority

In the second half of the year Committee n° 2 met for another meeting on July 11, 2003 in Berne

The meeting addressed the following subjects

Lifetime of ropes

This subject had already been touched on in the last meeting of the committee. Members had become aware of the fact that the subject is quite a complex one seen that the lifetime of ropes is affected by a great vari-

ety of different parameters and in particular external action, which for that mere reason cannot be taken into account in a simple deterministic analysis. Next to purely mechanical stress and strain such as bending stress and tension the lifetime is affected by parameters such as lubrication, corrosion, torsion, grips etc and hence it is not easy to predict the true lifetime of a rope. Yet it has become apparent that the lifetime of ropeway ropes is for a rule considerably longer than the lifetime of other ropes. A simple and rapid assessment of the service life of discarded ropes has shown that ropes have an average lifetime of 20 years. Of course their true service life very much depends on the discard criteria and conditions specified in the national regulations of the countries. That notwithstanding the committee decided to continue own investigations so as to assess the extent to which rope life time is affected by the number of sheaves, variable speed, duration of operating times, variable tension at the driving sheave (T/t), variable length of the installation, safety factor and lubrication.

Lubrication of ropes

The committee addressed in particular the following issues

Friction coefficient at the driving sheave

The committee exchanged information on and discussed the friction coefficients that are specified in European standards. It has become apparent that the range of coefficients extends from coefficient 0,22 to coefficient 0.3. The difference depends on the approach that is adopted and corresponds actually to the difference between the static and dynamic friction coefficient (static = non relative movement between rope and sheave, dynamic = relative speed of rope and sheave. It also varies with the lubricant that is used. The reference standards used are standards prEN 12930, prEN 12385, DIN 21258 and ISO 4349.

Lubrication of closed coil track ropes on saddles

There was agreement that lubrication of closed coil track ropes on saddles is possible and that drop feed lubrication of the rope surface gives satisfactory results.

Guide to lubrication

The committee dwelt in particular on the following questions

Why, how and where lubricate ropes and what lubricant ought to be used. The exchange of information has shown that what people need is a practical lubrication guide. As to its content, It would seem appropriate to refer to the general considerations on lubrication of ropeway ropes and recommendations published in the O.I.T.A.F. bulletin n°. 4 besides giving ample information on the different classes of lubricants. The committee suggest to write recommendations on ways and means to deal with the above subjects and have to this end launched and are carrying on a comprehensive research programme.

Pressure on ropes

Ropeway ropes having to resist nowadays to ever increasing loads and stresses the problem of pressure loads to which ropes are subjected is gaining a growing importance. The situations in which a rope is being put under pressure are the following ones

- on saddles (track ropes)
- in mounting clamps (any rope)
- under the rollers of a carrier (track ropes)
- in (permanent) bolted clamps (track ropes)
- in grips (hauling and carrying-hauling ropes)
- on or under rollers of roller batteries on towers (carrying-hauling ropes)
- chapeau de gendarme (hauling ropes)
- between carrier truck brake blocs (track rope)
- on sheaves (any rope)

The return of experience has revealed the importance of the conjugated pressure resulting from the track rope deviation on saddles and the hauling rope load.

The committee propose to continue their investigations and report results in due time.

The committee agreed to meet again on January 23, 2004 in Wels (A)

O.I.T.A.F. WORK COMMITTEE N° 3 : Electrical equipment and components of ropeway installations

Chairman of the committee : Dipl. Ing. Fredy Lang, Federal Office for Transports, Switzerland

The committee's last meeting was held in Kaprun (A) from September 8 to 10, 2003, Unfortunately the Secretariat of O.I.T.A.F. received neither the minutes of the last

meeting nor a report on the activity of the committee by the set deadline.

O.I.T.A.F. WORK COMMITTEE N° 4 : Legal, administrative, economic and statistical matters

Chairman of the committee : Dr. Horst Kühschelm, Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie

The committee met for their 53rd meeting in Hamburg on September 25 and 26, 2003. The main issues addressed during that meeting are the following ones

1. Glossary for a legal data bank

The glossary of legal and economic terms which the committee had produced in 5 languages, i.e. German, French, Italian, English and Slovenian has now been completed by adding the Spanish and Catalan legal terminology. The committee consider the possibility to enter into a legal data bank trend setting court decisions having a great significance for ropeway manufacturers, operators and supervisory authorities. Court decisions will be entered in the original language ; no translation is foreseen.

It is up to the Management Committee to take a decision on a crucial question, i.e. the accessibility of this collection of court decisions, restricted to members only or accessible to a wider range of people.

2. International survey of regulations relating to third party responsibility

Frau Wagner has completed her international comparison of regulations relating to third party responsibility and liability of ropeway operators and ski-run owners. Seen however that it has become apparent that in some instances members' views are still diverging it was felt that a second reading of the document would be helpful. It might be convenient to entrust this revision to a special working group.

3. Directive relating to cableway installations

The committee agreed to consider the Transposition of the EU Directive as a permanent item on the agenda of its future meetings

4. Transport conditions

The Management Committee have decided to set up a joint ad hoc working group on "Transportation of children".

Members of committee n° 4 and committee n° 6 are to serve on this joint ad hoc working group and outline prerequisites that need to be met whenever children are to be transported by a ropeway. Convenorship of this joint working group has been entrusted to Monsieur Pettex.

5. Directive relating to fire protection and control

The Austrian fire prevention services have published fire control guidelines for ropeway installations. In Germany the Ministry for Transports, ropeway operators and technical supervisory services are involved in a similar project.

Fire protection and control has also been discussed by the CEN Technical Committee who decided to publish a technical report on fire protection and control having the status of a recommendation and not that of a standard. The drafting of the technical report has been entrusted to an ad hoc working group..

6. Work programme for the next meeting

The following issues are to be given priority in the committee's future work

- Directive relating to ropeway installations
- Transportation of children
- Collection of court decisions
- Environment
- Added value of ropeway installations

Date and place of venue of the next meeting of committee 4 : April 21, 2004 in Grenoble.

WORKING GROUP set up by Committee 4 : Environment Forum

Convenor of the working group : Techn. Rat Dipl. Ing. Michael Manhart, Lech am Arlberg
Accepting an invitation extended by Monsieur Simiand, first vice-president of O.I.T.A.F. the working group met in Grenoble on November 27 and 28, 2003. The meeting addressed the following issues :

Alpine Convention

Monsieur Noel Lebel, former member of the working group, has been appointed Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, the headquarters of which are in Innsbruck (A). Monsieur Lebel submitted a progress report on the transposition and / or the ratification of the enforcement protocols of the Alpine Convention. Members of the Environment

Forum expressed their congratulations on Monsieur Lebel's prestigious appointment and asked him to make use of his position and influence to smooth the asperities of the discussions and difficulties of transposition procedures of the protocols of the Alpine Convention.

There was indeed awareness of the fact that member countries of the Convention tend to give diverging interpretations to some protocols. In Austria, for instance construction of ski-runs is not permitted on yielding or as they defined it, "labile" soil (the word used in the German version of the protocol) , while the proper word to be used is the one used in the French version, i.e. "unsteady soil" ("sols instables). It is quite obvious, that ground stabilization is necessary prior to the construction of general purpose ski-runs.

This example of a diverging interpretation of the protocol on soil protection reveals the importance of close cooperation of the services of the Alpine Convention with O.I.T.A.F and FIANET . Likewise these comments hold true for the protocol on "Transports". In Austria this protocol is given a negative interpretation and is referred to as a justification for the ban imposed on the constitution of a big ski areas made up by several smaller ones (which would seem quite reasonable) while in France and Italy the same protocol is given a favourable interpretation which permits the constitution of link connections between several ski areas.

Environmental Audit

Liechtenstein's environmental auditing project "pro natura – pro ski" was used as working document for the working group's exchange of views on the possibility to develop an efficient environmental auditing system of ski areas. In this project due consideration is given to the fact that many an action has already been taken by Alpine countries and regions to improve the quality of the Alpine environment. Liechtenstein's sponsors and experts have compiled an excellent survey of actions taken and practices used by Alpine countries, unfortunately with the exception of actions taken and procedures adopted by France, and shown the path to be followed by those who wish to develop an environmental auditing system. The final goal to be achieved is the certification of ski areas in accordance with EMAS standards (European standards on

environment) or ISO standard 14001 and regular, voluntary updating of procedures. It was felt that FIANET (International Federation of ropeway operators) ought to be asked to work out with the help of O.I.T.A.F. and the Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, Monsieur Lebel, a proposal for an acceptable solution and Jean Charles Simiand accepted accordingly to touch this matter to Peter Vollmer, FIANET's representative in the Alpine Convention. Having taken this decision the working group expressed thanks to Monsieur Lebel and Monsieur Simiand for their yearlong commitment and efforts made to bring a "practicable" Alpine Convention into being. Their help and support is still needed for us to be able to give a positive turn to the pending discussions on the transposition of the texts.

Publication of the results of the Forum's work

There was a lengthy discussion on the ways and means to be chosen to communicate the outcome of the forum's work to the public. In the past the working group had decided to ask own members to communicate results and minutes in which they were put on record to their respective competent national services, even though they were perfectly aware of the fact that prior to their publication documents have to be submitted to the approval of the Management Committee. French experts suggested to make a concise summary of the completed work each time discussions of a given topic have come to an end. The proposal will have to be discussed by the Management Committee at their next meeting because writing of these summaries may require some time and result in additional expenditure.

Résumé of conclusions of the research programme on Snowmax

Results of the complementary research on Snowmax, and in particular of the research programme carried out by Madame Dinger in France, show that the additive used to make snow does not contain any bacteria, even though it is made from bacteria. Hence it may be assumed that any bacteria which have been detected in the artificial snow may have been contained in the water used to make snow or introduced by the procedures used to add snowmax admixtures. No significant effect on the growth of plants and the variety of species has been

observed. Snowmax may therefore be used where necessary without pangs of conscience. *Pseudomonias syringae*, the integument of which is used to make snowmax, is a bacterium which in its natural state, is present everywhere in the world.

Programme of the next meeting

"Wild animals and ski areas is the main subject the working group have agreed to examine at their next meeting on March 10, 2004 in Lech. In this context the subjects to be covered are the following ones : delimitation of ski areas, marking and supervision of prohibited areas, EU Directive relating to wildlife habitat and birds, natura 2000 areas and relevant biology of wild animals, as well in the same context, preservation of wood barriers. France declared that for the time being this is no priority subject in France, while in Austria and Germany it is regarded as a red-hot subject. As part of its strategy for the preservation of wood barriers the regional Government of Vorarlberg has launched the action "Respek Tiere Deine Grenzen" or with other words "respect animals and their habitat". Members of the Environment Forum are looking forward to the next meeting which will be entirely dedicated to issues relating to wildlife biology in ski areas and the special feast after the days work consisting of a succulent roast of venison.

Publications

Prof. Erwin Lichtenegger's new extended version of the book "Hochlagenbegrünung" (Greening at High altitude) is the result of the Environmental forum's discussions at their meeting in Vienna in November 2001. Readers will remember that we had mentioned it in the last issue of **O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS**. This book is available both in German, as well as in an English version. The working group wish to recommend it warmly to all ski run owners and ropeway operators. Orders may be placed directly with Pflanzensoziologisches Institut., Kempfstr. 12 – A-9020 Klagenfurt, Phone and Fax ++43 (0) 463 54 461.

The working group also wish to recommend French publications on the same subject matter, in particular publications by Mme. Françoise Dinger.

O.I.T.A.F. WORK COMMITTEE N° 6 – Optimization of ropeway and ski-tow operation
Chairman of the committee : Ing. Francis Crouzet

This year's last meeting of the committee was held on October 1 and 2, 2003 in Bolzano

At this meeting the committee dedicated most of their time to the discussion of issues related to the transportation of children on chairlifts and have as a result prepared a first draft recommendation. This draft is to be submitted to the joint ad hoc working group on "Transportation of children" for further and more detailed discussion of the subject (Cf special report)

The committee's dedicated most of their time to the discussion of the following issues:

- Maximum permissible number of children seated on one chair with only one accompanying person
- Boarding assistance to be given by attendants
- Minimum age of the accompanying person
- Surveillance of the maximum permissible number of children seated on a chair
- Ergonomic study
- Transportation of children and the mission of the staff

Thereafter the floor was given to Alain Soury Lavergne for him to submit a progress report on the transposition of the EU Directive, CEN standards and the drafting of guidelines for the uniform application of the EU Directive intended as an aid for all involved professional categories

The committee's programme for the year 2004 is as follows : February 2 and 3, meeting in Munich (D), June 3 and 4, meeting in Paris and September 27 and 28 meeting in Switzerland.

JOINT WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN

Seen that O.I.T.A.F. bulletin n° 9, Transport conditions, is at present being revised by O.I.T.A.F. committee n° 4 and seen that transportation of children is a subject which has been addressed by both committee 4 and committee 6 it has been agreed to set up a joint working group composed of representatives of both these committees, a representative of ski instructors and a legal

expert. The ad hoc working group is to draft regulations for the transportation of children. Monsieur Jean Louis Pettex, director of the Compagnie des Alpes has been appointed convenor of this working group.

The first meeting of the joint ad hoc group was held at the office of SNTF in Grenoble on October 28, 2003.

The ad hoc working group discussed regulations and recommendations relating to the transportation of children specified in the following documents : the draft of a document relating to transportation of children produced by committee n° 6, the O.I.T.A.F. recommendation and the CEN standard on operation, i.e. the following [O.I.T.A.F. Recommendations on transport conditions](#)

„Children less than 1,2 m in height shall be permitted to board a carrier only if they are accompanied by a person who has the necessary aptitude and qualities to assist them in case of need. Transportation of groups of children may be subject to special regulations.”

CEN standard on operation

„Children less than 1,2 m in height shall be permitted to board a chair only if they are accompanied. The companion shall have the necessary aptitudes and qualities to assist children using the same chair in case of need. Transportation of groups of children may be subject to special regulations.

It will be seen that there is no major difference between the CEN standard and the O.I.T.A.F. recommendation

A survey on the application of the O.I.T.A.F. recommendation and CEN standard has shown that some countries do not stick to the O.I.T.A.F. recommendation or do not apply the CEN standard. Their criteria are based on the age of the children.

Besides the issues which have already been covered by committee n° 6, the joint working group dwelt in particular on problems relating to the "accompanying person" and the companion's responsibility. The representative of ski instructors stressed the problems ski instructors have with children not only because children nowadays tend to start skiing much earlier and tend to use alternative downhill gliding equipment for one and operators tend to replace ski-tows with newly built chairlifts.

The frequency of accidents (children falling from the chair or on the tow track) was another subject the joint working group ad-

dressed at their meeting. Even though no accurate statistical survey are yet available, the exchange of views has shown that most accident occur in the boarding or the disembarking area.

The companions acceptance to accompany a child or children to be seated on his chair was another issue the working group discussed. Must the companion be asked to confirm his willingness to accompany a child or children ?

Considering the outcome of their exchange of views the joint working group decided to amend some of the points covered by the draft document relating to the transportation of children. prepared by committee n° 6 and to resume the discussion of the draft at their next meeting..

The working group agreed to meet again on January 20, 2004 in Berne.



Reading *O.I.T.A.F. NEWS* during acceptance tests

FUTURE EVENTS

Meetings of O.I.T.A.F. bodies (agreed dates)

<u>Management Committee</u>	20.04.04 at Grenoble (F)
<u>Executive Committee</u>	29.01.04 at Zürich Airport
<u>O.I.T.A.F. – Seminar:</u>	22.04.04 at Grenoble (F)
<u>Organisation Committee</u>	
9 th International O.I.T.A.F. Conference	21.01.04 at Innsbruck (A) 17.03.04 at Innsbruck (A)
<u>Committee n° 1</u>	16/17.02.04 at Bregenz (A)

Working group
Material handling
ropeways

15/16.01.04 at Lucerne
25/26.03.04 at Bourg St.
Maurice (F)
2nd week May 0.4 at Italy
23.01.04 at Wels (A)
yet to be agreed
21.04.04 at Grenoble (F)

Committee n° 2

Committee n° 3

Committee n° 4

WG Environmental

Forum

Committee n° 6

10.03.04 at Lech (A)
02.03.02.04 at Munich (D)
03/04.06.04 at Paris (F)
27/28.09.04 yet to be confirmed

Working group
Transportation of
children

20.01.04 at Berne (CH)
30.03.04 at Berne (CH)

O.I.T.A.F. in INTERNET

Retrieval of files, a facility offered to O.I.T.A.F. members.

Only O.I.T.A.F. members can now visit and load down *O.I.T.A.F. Technical Recommendations* and papers produced by O.I.T.A.F. committees in past years. Have a try at it. You may now visit anytime the last issue of *O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS*. All you need to do is to enter the password that has been posted to you.

General Information

Access to the German, English, French, Italian or Spanish version of the O.I.T.A.F. website may be obtained by entering the address <http://www.oitaf.org>. The website provides the following information

- What is O.I.T.A.F. all about
- Structure of O.I.T.A.F.
- O.I.T.A.F. statute
- Activities of O.I.T.A.F.
- NEWS and other information about O.I.T.A.F.
- **O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS**
- O.I.T.A.F. bodies and their members
- O.I.T.A.F. committees
- Technical Recommendations, papers and statistical surveys produced by O.I.T.A.F.
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For further information contact e-mail

info@oitaf.org

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O.I.T.A.F. Secretariat

I-39100 BOLZANO, via Crispi, 10

Tel : ++39-0471-414600 Fax ++39-414616

Email : H.Brugger @provinz.bz.it

or info@oitaf.org

Text and photographs, if not otherwise specified, written or taken by the Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F.