



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

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President's preface

Dear Reader

Essentially most O.I.T.A.F. members owe their activity and development to winter sports which may be regarded as the prime mover of their activities. This is why the changes of the world climate we are experiencing at present may in the long run represent a potential menace for the activities of our profession.

I say, in the long run, because so far winter sports have resisted undisturbed even to the most adverse meteorological conditions like the ones Europe has known last winter. Indeed figures published by European countries show that operators of ski areas have suffered on an average a loss in activity of no more than 10 % compared to their normal activity.

However, useless to point out that this has been the positive result of efforts made by responsible ski-run owners, operators or providers, who unfortunately are but little represented in O.I.T.A.F. and taken little care of within the scope of our activities.

This is why I am particularly glad to note that the first activities concerned with the environment of ropeway installations which have been launched by O.I.T.A.F. are not far from being completed. It is the first step made by our organisation in the direction of proper environment management, which might be regarded as the logical follow-up of activities in the field of quality management.

In terms of time I am pretty sure that skiing shall be in great demand throughout the period covered by our action and that accordingly great efforts will be made to meet the demand. It is hence our duty to commit ourselves to a controlled management of natural resources which are entrusted to our care for us to preserve and protect them.

Note of the Secretary General

The round of meetings held by the management bodies of O.I.T.A.F. has been lead of in January 2007 by the meeting of the Executive Committee to be followed in April 2007 by the meeting of the Management Committee.

The Executive Committee has been assigned the mission to follow up activities of O.I.T.A.F.

study committees and to proceed to a first preliminary review of their draft recommendations. The Executive Committee is also expected to have a first preliminary discussion of the agenda of the meetings of the Management Committee and of the decisions to be taken by the Management Committee.

The Management Committee is expected to take decisions concerning the organisation of annual O.I.T.A.F. seminars, the organisation of O.I.T.A.F. international conferences, establish the list of issues to be addressed by O.I.T.A.F. study committees, to appoint working groups and assign them the task to discuss arising specific problems, to approve draft recommendations produced by O.I.T.A.F. study committees etc.

This year's annual seminar has been hosted by Innsbruck. A summary report of the seminar is given further down.

The Secretary General attended a meeting of the CEN Technical Committee 242 as representative of O.I.T.A.F. A summary report of the meeting is given further down.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION

Activities of the Management Committee and of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee have met for their 83rd meeting at the UNIQUE Conference Center of the Zürich Airport on January 26, 2007. The meeting has been once more attended by the chairmen of O.I.T.A.F. study committees and conveners of O.I.T.A.F. working groups who have been invited to attend the meeting and to report on the activities of their study committee or working group.

The Management Committee have held their 112th meeting during the INTEERALPIN Exhibition in Innsbruck on April 19, 2007.

Amongst other issues the Executive Committee and the Management Committee have addressed in particular the following issues :

- Organisation of the O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2007 in Innsbruck
- O.I.T.A.F. General Assembly 2008
- O.I.T.A.F. seminari 2008
- Appointment of an ad hoc working group who are to receive the assignment to draft

recommendations for the relocation of old ropeway installations

- Appointment of a joint ad hoc working group who are to receive the assignment to draft recommendations for the transportation of handicapped persons
- Publication of an O.I.T.A.F. statistical survey of ropeway installations
- Comparative study of procedures for the award of concessions of EU member countries

O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2007 in Innsbruck

The seminar on

“Safety of ropeway installations : what can we do to remain a safe means of transport”

has been organized in Innsbruck on April 18, 2007. The seminar moderated by the chairman of O.I.T.A.F. study committee 1



Peter Sedivy

has offered participants the possibility to listen to the presentation of the following lectures :

“Beginning of safety – Safety scenarios”



delivered by Fritz Meyer (SUVA)

“Conformity assessment procedures : Extent and utility”



delivered by Michael Matthis (Doppelmayr Garaventa)

“Experience so far made by a notified body, the TÜV SÜD, with the EU Directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons ; certification of subsystems and safety components, interfaces



delivered by Hans-Ulrich Zbil (TÜV SÜD)

“Safety analysis according to the requirements of the EU Directive : objective and feedback”



delivered by Jean-Paul Huard (Pomagalski) and Gaetan Rioult (STRMTG)

“The safe coupling procedure : hazards arising during the attachment and detachment of grips and appropriate measures to prevent or eliminate these hazards”



delivered by Rudolf Beha (Leitner)

“Optimisation of rescuing methods – Results of scientific research projects”



delivered by Frank Wagner (BG Bahnen) and Hans-Jürgen Ottersbach (BG Arbeitsschutz)

“Operation of ropeway installations – the last element of the safety analysis”



delivered by Walter Bolliger (SBS –Swiss)

Lectures can be retrieved from the O.I.T.A.F. Homepage (www.oitaf.org) and loaded down.

The President of O.I.T.A.F., Jean Charles Faraudo has had the pleasure to welcome 230 or so participants.



The audience

O.I.T.A.F. General Assembly 2008

Under the provisions of the O.I.T.A.F. statute a General Assembly of O.I.T.A.F. has to be convened at least once every three years and proceed to the election of members of a new Management Committee and a new Board of Auditors.

Having been approached by members of O.I.T.A.F. and of the O.I.T.A.F. Executive Committee the Norwegian Association of Ropeway Operators has accepted to organize together with Det Norske Veritas the next O.I.T.A.F. General Assembly in Oslo.

Norway suggests to convene the General Assembly in the last week of June 2008.

The Management Committee is now expected to take their final decision regarding the date and other details at their next meeting.

O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2008

At their last meeting the Management Committee have decided to organize the O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2008 in Oslo in conjunction with the General Assembly 2008, i.e. in the last week of June 2008.

O.I.T.A.F. study committee 4 have accepted to organize and make the necessary arrangements for the seminar as well as to suggest names of lecturers and titles of lectures on the following subject :

“Economic and administrative problems of the ropeway industry”

Detailed information regarding the 2008 seminar will be posted directly to all members and published in the O.I.T.A.F homepage (www.oitaf.org).

Appointment of an Ad Hoc working group who have been assigned the remit to draft recommendations for the relocation of old ropeway installations

The EU Commission having categorically declared in the last meeting of the Standing Committee that existing ropeway installations and hence the relocation of existing ropeway installations are within the field of competence of member countries and that as a consequence the EU Directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons is not applicable to old ropeway installations, O.I.T.A.F. have decided to address this issue and declared that it might be worthwhile to draft recommendations for the relocation of old ropeway installations.

This is also why the Management Committee have decided last year to appoint an ad hoc working group and assign it the remit to draft recommendations for the relocation of old ropeway installations.

At the last meeting of the Management Committee in Innsbruck a decision supported by FIANET and IARM has been taken on the composition of the ad hoc working group with due regard to the need to ensure a balanced representation of ropeway operators, ropeway manufacturers and ropeway supervisory authorities of all concerned countries and in particular the most important ropeway countries. The members of this ad hoc working group have been nominally appointed.

This ad hoc working group has also been assigned the remit to work out a first draft recommendation before the end of this year and submit it to the Executive Committee for consideration at the beginning of the next year and then to the Management Committee for a final approval.

Appointment of a joint working group who were given the assignment to draft recommendations for the transportation of handicapped persons.

At the request of O.I.T.A.F. study committee 4 on Legal, Administrative, Economic and Statistical Matters and O.I.T.A.F. study committee 6 on Optimisation of the Operation of Ropeways the Management Committee have decided at their last meeting to appoint a joint ad hoc working group composed of members of both these committees and assign them the task to draft international recommendations for the ropeway transport of handicapped persons.

Publication of an O.I.T.A.F. statistical survey of ropeway installations

Statistical surveying of ropeway installations is one of the activities O.I.T.A.F. is expected to promote in order to achieve the organisation's objectives as laid down in the organisation's statute.

Unfortunately there is so far no internationally unified system of surveying which means that the only source of information which can be referred to are national statistical surveys which are not always readily available and different from one another in layout and approach.

In the years 1983 to 1999 O.I.T.A.F. have regularly published international statistical surveys of ropeway installations which were the result of joint efforts made by O.I.T.A.F. and ISR, the latter being by the way also responsible for the layout of the survey and its publication.

In the meantime more than 8 years have elapsed since the last issue of these statistical surveys and this is why the Management Committee have decided to publish again an international statistical survey of ropeway installations and to adopt to this end the former structure and technical elements referred to in past surveys.

This is why O.I.T.A.F. have asked all national and regional or local supervisory authorities to report all relevant statistical data of ropeway installations which are within the scope of their supervising competence, an exception is being made for ski-tows, for which they are asked to report only the number of existing ski-tows.

To this end contacts have been established not only with all competent departments and authorities, but also all ropeway associations

; all of them have been asked to support this initiative and permit O.I.T.A.F. to publish once again a reliable international statistical survey of ropeway installations.

Readers will find enclosed a copy of the letter which has been sent to all concerned departments, authorities and associations.

Procedure for the approval of recommendations for the re-lubrication of ropeway ropes

O.I.T.A.F. committee 2 "Characteristics and Inspection of Ropes" chaired by Eric Premat, officer of the French supervisory authority, have drafted recommendations for the re-lubrication of ropeway ropes and have submitted them to the approval of the Management Committee. In order to give members of the Management Committee a chance to examine the draft and make comments in time before the next meeting of the Management Committee it has been agreed to set a time limit for comments and objections, the time limit being end of July 2007.

Having examined all comments and objections committee 2 are expected to submit the final draft in time for the next meeting of the Management committee which has been scheduled to take place in November 2007.

Comparative study of procedures for the award of concessions of EU member countries

The EU Commission having announced their intention to publish a general directive relating to procedures for the award of concessions, which, seen its wide scope, will, of necessity, also apply to ropeway installation operated in concession, the Management Committee have discussed this issue and voiced their deep concern about the Commission's proposal to equate ropeway concessions with concessions granted for other fields of activity, such as for instance concessions relating to energy production and supply, management of water resource or other transport systems operated in concession etc. seen that such an equation would totally upset the present system of rights and duties of ropeway operators and owners. It is inconceivable that there should be for ropeways and ski-tows which have been or are

being built to support the interests and needs of tourism a regulation requiring a public invitation of tenders for the award of concessions for the operation of new or existing ropeway installations and ski-tows. In order to get an overall view of the situation in member countries the chairman of O.I.T.A.F. committee 4 has been asked to make a comparative study of current practices and enforced regulations relating to the award of concessions, as well as of requirements to be met.

The Management Committee have decided to discuss the results of this comparative study and the action to be taken at their next meeting.

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

Prof. George Derron has left us for ever.



President of O.I.T.A.F. for many years Prof. George Derron died this year on June 19 at the age of 87. Prof. Derron has been elected in 1984 in Vienna president and successor of Prof. Gilberto Greco, the outstanding past president of O.I.T.A.F. from 1971 to 1984. Throughout the 9 years of his presidency, i.e. from 1984 to 1993, President Derron has developed a highly meritorious activity, such as for instance the unswerving efforts to reorganize O.I.T.A.F. study committees in a way which was more consistent with the reality of facts.

During his presidency O.I.T.A.F. organized two worldwide international conferences of transportation by rope, a first one in Grenoble in 1987 and the second in Barcelona in 1993. two conferences which were no doubt not

only two path-breaking events in the history of O.I.T.A.F. but also, thanks to Prof. Derron's commitment, two highly successful events.

All persons who knew him appreciated his profound knowledge of the specific legal problems of the ropeway profession and even more than that his truly human side : always ready to help all who needed help or give advise to all persons who needed an advise, always willing to do the utmost in order to find a way out of the most difficult and tough discussions. He never shied away from trouble whenever O.I.T.A.F.s interests were at stake and O.I.T.A.F. had to be represented.

In 1993 O.I.T.A.F. nominated Prof. Derron honorary member of O.I.T.A.F. to show the organisation's gratitude for his commitment.

Internationally Prof. Derron was known to the ropeway profession all over the world as a

man of high value and exceptional qualities. And this is also true for his native country, Switzerland, which no less appreciate the outstanding services he has rendered to the national ropeway industry. In 1973 he has been appointed member of the board of the Swiss ropeway association and has been elected president of the same association in 1979, an office which he has held for six years. Next to this presidency he has also been elected president of FIANET, an office which he resigned in 1992.

1956 he has also started his activity as lecturer of the Lausanne Technical University and has developed a highly successful and appreciated activity as extraordinary professor of that university.

Dear George, I shall never forget and always treasure the many meetings with you, the many splendid hours I spent at your home with you and your dear wife. May I convey herewith our sincere sympathy and gratitude to your family.

CEN standards

The CEN Technical Committee 242 met for their 30th meeting at the Bavarian Ministry for Economy on March 27, 2007.



Working session of the Technical Committee



The Norwegian and the French delegations

The meeting addressed three important issues

- Standardization of travelators for tourist and sporting use, used to transport passengers mainly in ski areas.
- Procedures for the amendment of enforced harmonized standards (Help desk)
- Information signs installed in and along ropeway installations

Standardization of travelators for tourist and sporting use, used to transport passengers mainly in ski areas

In the last issue of OITAF-NEWS we have informed readers that a working group convened by Jean Paul Bonneton has been assigned the remit to write a draft standard for travelators. The working group have in the meantime completed their draft. Members having suggested some amendments the draft will be accordingly revised and the revised draft released for public enquiry.

What however is still missing is a mandate issued by the EU Commission to convert this draft standard into a harmonized standard. So far this mandate has not been given because so far no decision has been taken with regard to the directive which ought to be regarded as reference directive, i.e. the Machinery directive or the directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons, even though the majority believe that the latter one ought to be regarded as the appropriate directive despite the fact that travelators are no rope driven means of transportation. Which means that the scope of the ropeway directive would have to be enlarged should the majority's view prevail. This is why the draft standard will be submitted to the CEN Central Secretariat for clarification.

Amendment procedures for enforced standards (Maintenance, Help Desk)

Readers have also been informed in the last issue of OITAF NEWS that in the one before last meeting of the Technical Committee in November 2006 it has not been possible to reach an agreement on the best suited procedure which ought to be followed to make necessary amendments to or update harmonized standards

In contrast with the views expressed in past meetings of CEN TC 242, members have declared in the last meeting that they do not believe that continuous updating of standards is really necessary. What should be rather aimed at is a kind of itemized updating of specific issues. This approach has already been taken care of in CEN internal regulations which specify rules for the so-called systematic assessment which has to be made by the responsible technical committee five years after the publication of a standard to assess the unchanged validity of the standard or, as the case might be, the need to revise it. Even though CEN members are given time till 2009 to debate this question, they may, should they so wish, submit in the meantime their proposals for amendment to the technical committee.

At their last meeting the technical committee discussed a new draft proposal made by the president of the technical committee or respectively its secretariat. The meeting approved the proposal and by so doing ap-

proved the following two fundamental decisions :

- CEN TC 242 decided to increase the number of members of the Project Team, give it a wider scope and for that reason also a new title, i.e. Project Team for the maintenance of standards, as well as to assign the enlarged project team the following two missions :
 - o Prepare replies to queries related to questions of interpretation and clarification (if necessary after having heard the views of the responsible working groups on question which involve technical issues)
 - o To refer technical questions which have been submitted to CEN TC 242 to the responsible working group (for amendment or revision)
- The committee pointed out that according to the CEN Internal regulations TC 242 is the only competent body which has the authority to decide the revision of a standard
- The committee decided to confirm Jean Paul Bonnetton convenor of the project team. The project team is composed of the following members : P. Siazzu (I), M. Pitscheider (I) Herr Püntener (CH) and Michael Mathis (A). Upon request of CEN members the number of members of the project team may be made up anytime. The committee also decided to entrust AFNOR the responsibility for the secretariat of the project team.

Thereupon the president of CEN TC 242, drawing the conclusions, pointed out, that it is now possible, should it prove necessary, to reactivate the responsible working

Information signs installed in and along ropeway installations

At their meeting in November 2006 the Technical committee have decided to assign the working group "Operation" the task to draft a technical report on information signs to be installed in and along ropeway installations for passengers to receive proper information on what they are expected to do or not to do, provided no standard for information signs has yet been published by ISO.

The secretariat of CEN TC 242 has made the necessary research and found out that ISO has no running projects or published standards for this kind of information signs, that however the ropeway safety marking has to be reviewed by ISO TC 145/SC2. Which means that if the CEN TC 242 working group I on "Operation" were to take up work to write a standard on this new topic they would not be able to complete the standard within 23 months because so far no draft or relevant documents is yet available. This is why the technical committee has decided to adopt a resolution to submit to the CEN Central Secretariat the request to add this new potential work item to the technical committee's work programme and to instruct the responsible working group to draft a technical report. The resolution has been approved by a unanimous vote.

Appointment of new CEN working group conveners

The Swiss delegation has submitted the proposal to appoint Kuno Meirer convener of working group F "Electrical Equipment" and Urs Dietrich, convener of the working group G "Civil engineering works"

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

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

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

Dr. Sedivy has had us have the following report :

Committee 1 has been rather busy in the first six months of the year.

Indeed the committee

- Have met for a first meeting on January 25 and 26, 2007 in Chur
- Seven members of the committee delivered lectures to the seminar on "Safety of ropeway installations : What can we do to remain a safe means of transport" t committee 1 have organized in Innsbruck
- Met for a second meeting from May 9 to May 11, 2007 in Catania

We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all members of the committee for their unswerving dedication, unpaid for attendance and active support given to their committee.



Working session of the committee

Having welcomed and accepted the invitation of the Italian Ministry for Transports the spring meeting of the committee has been convened in May in Catania and has been perfectly organized by Dr. Ing. Pierpaolo Siazzu, the head of the Italian supervisory authority. At this meeting committee 1 finalized the work of many years, i.e. the draft recommendations which are to serve as a guideline for the determination of hazardous scenarios and hazardous situations which ought to be given due consideration in a safety analysis of unidirectional aerial ropeways. It is a survey covering 46 pages listing the hazardous situations and hazardous scenarios of unidirectional ropeways, their components, subsystems and their operation, situations and scenarios which have so far been identified by designers and safety experts of ropeway installations.

The document handed over to the Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F. Dr. Heinrich Brugger, reflects the professional knowledge so far gained and the experience so far made by designers, manufacturers, safety experts and experts directly concerned with the operation of ropeway installations.

But having finalized this recommendations O.I.T.A.F. committee 1 have completed only one part of their mission. Indeed in 2007 they are expected to take up work on the next project, i.e. draft recommendations which are to serve as a guideline for the determination of hazardous scenarios and hazardous situations which ought to be given due considera-

tion in a safety analysis of reversible aerial ropeways.

Besides the fulfilment of a job, the meeting in Catania has also been highlighted by many other events. Not only the fact that the meeting was attended by the Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F. Dr. Heinrich Brugger, who had thus an opportunity to let himself be convinced of the high level of the technical expertise of committee 1, but also the unique experience of the trip to the mount Etna, the visit of the summit ropeway and the walk along external craters of the active volcano and lava flows. We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank once more the Sicilian ropeway operator for his hospitality and generosity. All members of the party will no doubt keep a long lasting memory and feeling of deep gratitude for the warm reception they were given by the operator and of the pictures and impressions of the active volcano.



The committee invited to a formal dinner



The committee on the Mount Etna

O.I.T.A.F. COMMITTEE 2 : Characteristics and Inspection of Ropes

Chairman : Eric Premat, STRMTG – Supervisory Authority (F)

The committee convened in Milano on January 15 and 16, 2007 at the Politecnico di Milano (the Technical University) and has addressed the following issues :

1. Recommendations for the re-lubrication of ropeways

The committee discussed at this meeting the English version of the draft recommendations and approved it with some amendments. The draft has thereupon been translated into German, French and Italian. The four language versions have been submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration, the intention being to publish these recommendations before the end of the year 2007.

2. Case study of non destructive testing

The results of the inspection of an opened closed coil track rope and a closed tension rope have clearly shown that additional thought has to be given to and additional research carried out with currently used non destructive testing methods, i.e. the magneto-inductive and radiosopic inspection of ropes (frequency of inspection, inspection quality, experience made by the testing team). As for the examined ropes the results have indeed shown that the magneto-inductive inspection has revealed only 20 – 30 % of actually existing broken wires and the radiosopic inspection has revealed 50 % of actually existing broken wires.

The committee have decided to continue to collect data and exchange results in order to get to improve their knowledge and forecast accuracy of the likely lifetime of ropes which are subject to given internal and external conditions.

3. New projects of the Swiss Federal Office for Transports

After the accident of the Schilthornbahn the Swiss authority has decided to commission the following research projects :

- Project 1 : Assessment of the corrosion of haul ropes
- Project 2 : Assessment of rope inspections

The Swiss Federal Office for Transports has approached all potentially interested persons to see whether they might be willing to collaborate and contribute to the second stage of project 2 and thus to a wider exchange of results. All attending members stressed the

fact that rope inspections are a very important issue and that in particular

- Visual inspection does not give full satisfaction
- Due consideration ought also be given to magneto-inductive and radiosopic inspection.

Considering its likely scientific interest committee 2 supports the idea of an international project having a threefold objective, i.e. to assess the present state of the art of testing instruments, to exchange and collect information on the results of rope inspections, as well as to collect and exchange information on the latest experience and the results of professional training of inspectors and qualification requirements and last but not least the quality of testing.

Such a project might in the last turn serve as a basis for the elaboration of an international technical recommendations for rope inspections.

After their last meeting committee 2 have submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration a request to examine ways and means of carrying out such an international project. The committee have also decided to give first priority to this issue in the agenda of the next meeting of the committee and to discuss the progress of both the above mentioned projects and the results so far achieved.

4 Slippage of a funicular track rope in its end fixing

The inspection of an onboard brake of a funicular has revealed a slippage of the track rope in its end fixing. This disorder triggered a discussion of the strength of an end fixing subjected to a sudden increase of the rope tension and an exchange of views on the influence of rope galvanization. Another question to be examined in this context is the accuracy of the rope end fixing inspection.

5. Future work programme of O.I.T.A.F. committee 2

With due regard to projects carried out in the past 4 years and problems which have lately shown to be particularly important problems the committee have unanimously decided to adopt a new work programme. In the work programme for the

three years to come priority will be given to the following issues :

- a. Rope inspection
- b. Torsion test
- c. Exchange of information on the experience made with new regulations and standards
- d. Problems with the CE marking of ropes
- e. Manufacture of rope end fixings
- f. Oscillations
- g. Lifetime of ropes

6. Next meeting

The committee have decided to hold the next meeting on December 3 and 4, 2007 at the EMPA in Dübendorf.

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

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

According to the minutes of the last meeting held on April 23 to 25, 2007 the committee have addressed the following items of their agenda :

Members of the study committee :

Under the provisions of the committee's internal rules members of the national delegation may be nominated only by the national delegation. The chairman of the committee has no power to nominate a member or national delegation. Member countries are entitled to delegate no more than 4 representatives, due consideration being given to a balanced representation of ropeway manufacturers, ropeway operators and ropeway supervisory authorities.

Report on the last meeting of CEN Technical Committee 242

E. Megert who has attended the last meeting of CEN TC 242 held in November 2006 presented a survey of the committee's decisions and activities.

Signaling and storage of disorders and operating states

Attending members declared they had received the last working document which has been circulated by the ad hoc working group in 2003 attached to the invitation to the meet-

ing of CEN TC 242. A. Fornasa , convener of the ad hoc working group, declared at that meeting that it was his intention to convene the ad hoc group before summer.

Exchange of information

Abiding by this committee's traditional agenda attending members exchanged information on events and disorders that affect the safety of ropeway installations.

Reports have been submitted on the following issues :

- Drop in voltage due to the transition resistance of old sets of components
- Problems due to the crazing of break forks
- Defective electric connections in a main distribution module
- Inadmissible residual current in the harmonic filter circuit due to defective electric connections in a main distribution module and resulting short circuit of the main circuit breaker.
- Short circuit of a frequency converter module without adverse effects for the safety of the rope installation
- Dropping chairs. Which are the measures taken in the various countries to prevent chair slippage. Harmonisation of these measures is advisable.
- In principle the installation of wireless emergency stop buttons is permitted provided evidence of their performance and efficiency has been made available and their efficiency has been justified. Notwithstanding that adverse interference may negatively affect their trouble-free performance.

Inclined hoists

Committee members exchanged information on standards published by member countries and national regulations, as well as in particular the classification criteria the countries referred to to classify inclined hoists as a "ropeway" or "lift"

Lightning strikes detector as defined by the CEN standard

Seen that lightning strikes detectors have been installed on no more than 3 ropeway installations an assessment of their efficiency is not possible.

Drive direction monitoring

Can the two monitoring systems, i.e. the time dependent and the speed dependent monitoring system be put on the same footing ? This is the questions which needs to be clarified.

Certification

Do certificates issued by employer's liability insurance associations have a legally recognized validity ? This questions and other certification issues shall be addressed at the next meeting of committee 3.

Next meeting of committee 3 : September 10 to 12, 2007 in Annecy

O.I.T.A.F. COMMITTEE 4 – Legal, administrative, economic and statistical matters.

Chairman : Dr. Horst Kühschelm, Österreichisches Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie

Chaired by Dr. Horst Kühschelm (Austria) the committee on legal and economic issues of the ropeway industry have held their 60th meeting on May 14 and 15, 2007 in Munich. The meeting has been attended by 23 members of the committee representing Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Spain and has addressed next to the issues of the committee's work programme the following additional topics :



Ministerialdirigent Dieter Wellner welcoming members of committee 3 on behalf of the Bavaria Ministry of State



Working session of the committee

Seminar 2008

Further to the information published in the last issue of O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS we have the pleasure to confirm that committee 4 have accepted to organize in June 2008 the O.I.T.A.F. annual seminar to be held in conjunction with the General Assembly of the Worldwide International Organization for Transportation by Rope. The committee have in mind to present lectures on national economy and business management problems of the ropeway industry, such as for instance lectures on the net value added of the ropeway industry, results of calculation methods used to assess the importance of the role played by the ropeway industry in a nation's economy, as well as lectures on the optimization of the business management of ropeway operating companies, lectures on the growing importance of snow and artificial snow production and its role in the national economy or extent to which snow affects the business of ropeway operators and their business management, which means that they plan to present lecturers on issues having a fundamental topic interest for all persons concerned with ropeways and the ropeway industry.

Leading representatives of the ropeway industry and knowledgeable experts of its economy in Switzerland, Germany, France and Austria have already accepted to deliver lectures to the 2008 seminar.

Contacts have also been established with US and Scandinavian personalities.

Comparative study of national procedures for the award of concessions for the operation of ropeway installations

With regard to the announced intention of the European Parliament to make traffic concessions conditional on the compulsory submission of a tender members of committee 4 have decided to survey the content, extent and legal status of concessions granted for the operation of ropeway installations by member countries. The committee has let the Secretary General have a copy of the resulting comprehensive survey which may be hence also made available to interested persons upon request.

In principle the legal situation is very much the same in all surveyed countries except France and in part Spain,

In France the concession is a deed delivered to effect the official delegation of duties and their consequences while in the other countries the concession is a mere administrative deed requiring only a positive decision of the competent authority. Hence, with the exception of France, concessions to operate a ropeway installation are granted for the concerned ropeway installation to the concerned ropeway operating company, and are never territorial concessions granted to a operating company.

These being the situation the majority of committee members believe that the compulsory submission of tenders for the concession of the right to operate, which in most countries are a mere administrative decision, is neither opportune nor legal

Transportation of handicapped persons

The question to know whether there is a real need to define specific transport conditions for handicapped persons is an issue that will be examined by a joint group composed of members of O.I.T.A.F. committee 4 and O.I.T.A.F. committee 6 who will meet in Berne on October 16, 2007. A report on the outcome of their discussion will be attached to the next report on the committee's activity.

Next meeting of O.I.T.A.F. committee 4 : October 17, 2007 in Berne.

WORKING GROUP appointed by O.I.T.A.F. study committee 4 : Environment Forum Convener of the working group : Techn, Rat. Dipl. Ing. Michael Manhart, Lech am Arlberg Michael Manhart submitted the following report :

Accepting an invitation of the Swiss members of the working group the Environment Forum met end of May 2007 at Grindelwald. The arrangements for the meeting have been made by Felix Mauerhofer, SBS. The working group were confident that they would have to meet only once more to finalize their "Recommendations for a conservative environmental protection policy of the ropeway industry". All members are now requested to check the references listed in the documents before the next meeting which has been scheduled to take place mid November in Vienna. Members who wish to enlarge on subtitles by entering into greater depth of the specific subject are given the chance to continue their work in special task groups.

In the meantime Gustl Kröll and Di Dietmann have not only edited all documents which have been revised in the last meeting held in December 2006 at the Fellhorn but have also taken care of the French input. Stimulated by the magnificent scenery of the three dominant mountains, Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau, the working group went through and discussed once more all the details of their draft recommendations for a conservative environmental protection policy of the ropeway industry, which according to their intentions ought to constitute the frame for the attached collection of drafts relating to the various subjects which have been dealt with. The working group are confident to reach general agreement on the final version of the document in time to submit it to the management bodies of O.I.T.A.F. for consideration by the end of the year. Last but not least we wish to express our thanks to the Swiss members of the working group for the excellent organisation of the last meeting.

O.I.T.A.F. COMMITTEE 6 : Optimisation of the Operation of Ropeways.

Chairman : Ing. Francis Crouzet / Ing. Mauro Joyeusaz M. Joyeusaz has sent us the following report :

The committee have met twice in the first half-year 2007.

The first meeting was held in Erfurt (D) on January 29 and 20, 2007. Mr. Wagner has done excellent work in organizing this meeting and has thus created the necessary sur-

rounding and atmosphere which permitted the 11 participants to work most efficiently.

The Committee have confirmed the decisions which they had taken in the previous meeting in Cadaques. After many years of activity in this committee Monsieur Granier has resigned his function as Secretary of the committee and has passed it to Signor Ozel-Ballot, representative of the supervisory authority of the Aosta valley. Monsieur Petit representative of the French supervisory authority who has served the committee from the very beginning in 1988 has also decided to resign and has attended this committee's meeting for the last time. He introduced his successor Monsieur Rioult, Director of the Bureau Départemental des Remontées Mécaniques of Haute Savoie.

All members expressed their full appreciation and gratitude to both gentlemen for the continuous commitment and excellent work.

The committee then continued to discuss the draft for a "Guide for the definition, control and execution of rescue plans".

The meeting discussed in particular the Italian working document for the chapter "Design and development of a rescue plan".

Particular attention has been given to aspects, such as topography of the terrain, characteristics of the track and carriers, operating conditions and type of passengers i.e. all aspects which are fundamental for a correct choice of the best suited rescuing method.

Thereafter the committee exchanged views on criteria for the choice of the best suited type of rescuing equipment which ensures a comfortable rescue, i.e. the choice of the appropriate equipment of line structures and carriers and of all necessary devices to be installed on line structures and carriers, as well as of all facilities permitting to accede to the place where the rescuing operations have to be carried out, all facilities permitting to accede to carriers and facilities and aids for passengers which have to be made available.

This means that thought has also to be given to the necessary organisation (i.e. the execution of the necessary functions, decisions regarding the number of members of the rescuing team, identification of necessary complementary activities).

The second meeting was held in Clermont Ferrand (F) on June 11 and 12.

The meeting was hosted at the headquarters of CRAM in the region of Auvergne and has been organized in an excellent way by Monsieur Granier.

The temporary attendance of a delegation of ropeway operators proved to be quite valuable in that they were given an opportunity to speak about their experience and thus make a valuable contribution to the committee's work.

The committee completed the draft for the chapter "Design and Development of a Rescuing Plan" after having had a rather long yet successful discussion on the human resources which are deemed to be necessary for an efficient execution of the rescuing plan in that it has been possible to reach agreement on the person responsible for the rescuing operation, the necessary professional training of the team and recurring practical training and practice.

Having completed this part of the draft the committee have addressed the next chapter, i.e. Execution of a rescuing plan and have discussed the working document submitted by the German and Swiss delegations.

They carefully examined and compiled a list of all activities that need to be carried out to ensure a successful outcome of rescuing operations. The final structure of the draft will be discussed at the next meeting.

Future meeting of the committee :
September 20, 21 and 22, 2007 at Grindelwald (CH)

February 7 and 8, 2008 in Aosta (I)
June 9 and 10, 2008 in Vienna.

FUTURE EVENTS

Meetings of O.I.T.A.F Management bodies
(which have already been fixed)

Management Committee : November 8, 2007 in Milano
Executive Committee : September 3, 2007 in Oslo

Work Committee 1 : yet to be agreed
Work Committee2 : September 3 and 4 in Dübendorf (CH)

Work Committee 3 : September 10 to 12, 2007 in Anancy (F)

Work Committee 4 : October 17, 2007 in Berne (CH)
Working group

Environment Forum : November 10 and 11, 2007 in Vienna
Work Committee 6 : September 20 to 22, 2007 at Grindelwald (CH)
January 7 and 8, 2008 in Aosta (I)
June 9 and 10, 2008 in Vienna (A)

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Access to the German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese or Japanese version of the O.I.T.A.F. website is 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**
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Publisher's imprint
O.I.T.A.F. Secretariat
I – 39100 BOLZANO, VIA Crispi, 10
Tel. ++39-0471-414600
Fax ++39-0471-414616
e-mail : H.Brugger@alice.it or
info@oitaf.org

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