



OITAF

General Secretariat
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PARIS 1963
LUZERN 1969
WIEN 1975
MÜNCHEN 1981
GRENOBLE 1987
BARCELONA 1993
SAN FRANCISCO 1999
INNSBRUCK 2005
RIO DE JANEIRO 2011
BOLZANO - BOZEN 2017

ORGANIZZAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE TRASPORTI A FUNE
INTERNATIONALE ORGANISATION FÜR DAS SEILBAHNWESEN
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRANSPORTS A CABLES
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR TRANSPORTATION BY ROPE
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DE TRANSPORTES POR CABLE
ORGANIZAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL DE TRANSPORTES POR CABO

WHAT IS OITAF ?

OITAF is the International Organisation for Transportation by Rope. It was founded in Milano (I) in 1959. At present it has 155 members from 35 countries.

THE REASONS FOR OITAF ?

In order to solve pending problems on a common basis it was found necessary to unite in one organization the interests of the three groupings concerned with ropeways:

- the ropeway operators / owners
- the manufacturers of ropeway installations
- the supervisory boards / authorities (representing the country involved)

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF OITAF ?

The major aims of OITAF are:

- to promote the growth and progress of transportation by rope;
- to promote studies and experimental work likely to be useful for the development and progress of transportation by rope;
- to promote the harmonization of national regulations in the field of rope transportation;
- to draft uniform international guidelines and issue recommendations for the design, construction, operation, maintenance and supervision of ropeways;
- to hold International Conferences on Transportation by Rope;
- to hold annual Seminars.

HOW DOES OITAF WORK ?

The organisation's activities are entrusted to 4 bodies:

- a) the Assembly (where all members have the right to vote)
- b) the Management Committee (18 members elected by the Assembly and 5 members without voting rights representing countries that have no delegate in the Management Committee)
- c) the Executive Committee (7 members chosen amongst the members of the Management Committee and the Secretary General)
- d) the Auditors (5 members elected by the Assembly).

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WHO CAN BE A MEMBER OF OITAF ?

Membership of the International Organisation for Transportation by Rope (OITAF) is open to all supervisory boards, associations, institutions, companies and persons concerned with technical, legal, administrative and economic aspects of transportation by rope, including ski-lifts. There are individual members and collective members.

WHAT IS THE WORK DONE BY OITAF ?

160 members have been appointed to serve on 6 working committees and currently 2 working groups (variable number depending on necessity) who convene twice each year in order to address the following issues:

Working Committee n° I: Technique of ropeway systems and technical recommendations

Scope of the committee:

- Development of technical recommendations on the design, construction and operation of ropeways, in particular in fields not covered by European or international standards, such as:
- Analysis of issues arising in the design of ropeways taking account of specific features of configurations and procedures for the operation, evacuation and maintenance of installations;
- Safety analysis of the overall system, subsystems or components of ropeways;
- Monitoring of developments in the construction and operation of ropeways and discussion of incidents and accidents;
- Preparation of draft recommendations on the above subjects;
- Organization of technical seminars.

Subjects:

- Examples of subjects discussed by Expert Committee I:
- Recommendation on the design and construction of ropeways
- Hazards and risk factors to be considered in safety analyses for ropeways;
- Guidelines for assessing modifications;
- Recommendations on the design and construction of chairlift loading conveyors.

Members:

Expert Committee I currently is made up of ropeway experts from seven European countries (A, I, F, D, E, CH, SLO) with balanced mix of public authorities, operators and manufacturers.

Working group: Non-public ropeways: Material handling ropeways and cable cranes

Scope of the working group:

The last revision and integration of the text of the recommendations of the notebook 8 was completed in 2016, resulting in the current version of the recommendation (Book 8-2).

It should be noted that the working group had in previous years carried out a complete revision of the old recommendations for the construction and operation of monocable and bicables aerial ropeways for material transport and cable cranes (previous book n° 8), publishing the 2006 version, which was subsequently revised and integrated in the 2010 and 2013 editions.

The 2006 version also introduced new new recommendations for the construction and operation of temporary cableways (with the exception of those for the exclusive transport of timber) and of inclined elevators for the transport of material.

The recommendations already approved by O.I.T.A.F. for to and fro bicables ropeways for the transport of material weighing up to 2000 kg , however, have been excluded from the group's work.

Composition of the group:

The working group is currently composed of a dozen technical experts from 6 European countries (A, D, CH, PL, F, I); it is a balanced presence of representatives of the technical surveillance authorities, operators and manufacturers.

The group's work will continue over the next few years to check the correct interpretation and application of the recommendation and monitor any need for further additions based on the user experience

Working group: Non-public ropeways: Transportation of people and goods with reversible aerial ropeways

After completing Book 11-1, the Working Group has suspended its work until the Management Committee assigns further tasks to it.

Working Committee n° II: Characteristics and inspection of ropes :

Scope of the committee:

Development of technical recommendations on ropes in service and non-destructive rope testing

Current activities:

- Translation of the technical recommendation on magnetic rope testing
- Development of a recommendation on visual rope inspections
- Development of a technical recommendation on the life of ropeway ropes

Members:

Expert Committee II currently has a total membership of 21 ropeway experts from eight countries from all over the world. They include representatives of supervisory authorities, operators, expert bodies and manufacturers.

Working Committee n° III: Electro technical installations and components:

Scope of the committee:

Working Committee III engages in a continuous exchange of information and experiences on the electrical equipment used in ropeways and, if necessary, draws up recommendations for OITAF or other expert committees.

The main topics covered are:

- Identification of significant safety deficiencies
- Compliance with national regulations and harmonized standards as well as their procedures, application and implementation
- Identification of technological and operational innovations and trends
- Handling of modifications and maintenance of existing ropeways
- In-depth discussion of specific technical issues as needed

Members

Expert Committee III currently has around 20 members from five European countries. A well-balanced mix of operators, public authorities, inspection bodies and manufacturers is ensured as far as possible.

Working Committee n° IV: Legal, administrative, economic and statistical problems

Scope of the committee:

- Ropeways and the EU – issues of interpretation with regard to Directive 2000/9/EC and the new Regulation (EU) 2016/424 as well as problems related to competition law
- Transnational exchange of experiences in ropeway law and economic matters
- Economic importance of ropeways –determination of economic indicators
- Issues related to the liability of ropeway companies under tort law and the passengers' self-responsibility
- Inspection, control and maintenance of ropeways and their legal bases
- Quality assurance for ropeways

At present 26 experts sit on this working committee ensuring a balanced representation of supervisory boards, operators and manufacturers of seven European countries.

Working Committee n° VI: Optimization of the operation of ropeway systems

Scope of the committee:

- Development of recommendations on the operation of ropeway installations

- Analysis of operational issues arising at ropeway installations in relation to passengers, material used, organization, environment, etc.
- Analysis of malfunctions, special incidents and accidents
- Monitoring the development of methods and equipment for operations, maintenance, inspections, etc.
- Preparation of proposals addressing these issues in order to solve problems or mitigate consequences

Members:

Expert Committee VI currently has a total of 16 members from seven countries with a well-balanced representation of supervisory authorities, operators and manufacturers.

Working Committee n° VII: Environment

Scope of the committee:

All environmental issues related to the ropeway industry

In detail, these are:

- Environmental management
- Environmental liability and environmental protection in general
- Consideration of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive
- Birds in the vicinity of ropeways – non-visible ropes, glass fronts of station buildings
- Climate in general – impacts on the ropeway industry
- Sustainable use of water resources
- Snow-making systems and monitoring of snow-making operations
- Energy efficiency in ropeway companies – carbon footprint
- Design of ski slopes taking special account of ecological aspects
- Avalanche control measures

Members:

In total, Expert Committee VII currently has 16 members from six countries (6 A, 2 CH, 1 D, 2 E, 2 F, 3 I) representing supervisory authorities (2), operators and manufacturers (7), universities (1), professional organizations (2) and planners (4).

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY OITAF SO FAR ?

Up to now OITAF have published and elaborated numerous recommendations and documents.

Here is the list of recommendations in effect

Book No.	Title
Book-3-1	Survey of magnetic rope testing of steel wire ropes
Book-6	Studies on electric and electronic apparatus:
Book-7	Studies and experiments on rescue equipment for rescuing passengers on ropeways:
Book-8-2	Recommendations for the construction and operation of material handling unidirectional and reversible ropeway installations, cable cranes and material handling funiculars
Book-9	Transport conditions on ropeways
Book-9-1	Provisions for special transport cases
Book-9-2	Operation in exceptional circumstances
Book-11-1	International recommendations for the construction and operation of non-public ropeways for transportation of people and goods. Reversible aerial ropeways
Book-12	International technical recommendations for the construction and operation of ropeways for transportation of goods with payloads up to 2000 kg
Book-13	International technical recommendations for brakes on the winch of ropeways installations
Book-16	Recommendations for the design and construction of conveyors intended as a boarding help for chairlifts

Book-17	Report about the state of investigation in the field of steel ropes Part 1: Achievements in wire rope production Part 2: Achievements in the operation of wires ropes prepared in 1978/79 by Prof. Z. Kawecki and Prof. J. Stachurski
Book-18	Recommendations for the design and construction of double monocable aerial rope-ways with regard to their specific features
Book-19	Legal glossary
Book-20	Recommendation relating to fire prevention and control requirements to be met in operation and during maintenance of ropeways installations
Book-22-1	Recommendation for the definition and identification of essential safety aspects of unidirectional ropeway installations
Book-22-2	Safety aspects which ought to be given due consideration in a safety analysis of component of a unidirectional ropeway installation
Book-23	Environmental protection responsibilities of transportation by rope
Book-23-1	On environmental protection in the Ropeway industry Documents and guidance for good practice
Book-24	Recommendation relating to relocation of existing ropeway installations designed to carry persons (high rope ski tows, fixed grip and detachable grip unidirectional ropeway installations).
Book-25-1	Recommendations for the definition and identification of fundamental safety aspects of bicable reversible aerial ropeways
Book-25-2	Recommendation relating to safety aspects which ought to be given due consideration in a safety analysis of components of bicable reversible aerial ropeways
Book-26	Guideline for the evacuation from ropeways
Book-26-1	Calculation method for rescue team determination
Book-27	Hazardous scenarios which ought to be given due consideration in a safety analysis of electro technical components of a unidirectional aerial ropeways
Book-28	General recommendations for the manufacturers lubrication and the re-lubrication of steel wire ropes used in ropeway installations for passengers
Book-29	Recommendation on Planning and Construction of ropeway installations designed to carry persons
Book-30	Possibilities to improve visual rope inspection (VI)

The various OITAF recommendations can be downloaded by members from the OITAF homepage www.oitaf.org.

ORGANIZATION OF OITAF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON TRANSPORTATION BY ROPE

The primary objective of OITAF is the organization of International Conference on the Transportation by Rope. Since their foundation OITAF have organized the following international conferences:

PARIS 1963
LUCERNE 1969
VIENNA 1975
MUNICH 1981
GRENOBLE 1987
BARCELONA 1993
SAN FRANCISCO 1999
INNSBRUCK 2005
RIO DE JANEIRO 2011
BOLZANO - BOZEN 2017

OITAF SEMINARIES

In 1995 OITAF committed organizing annual seminars on technical and economic aspects, on construction and operation, or on standardization and other issues related to rope transportation systems with a view to offering to all interested parties, manufacturers, operators, supervisory authori-

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ties or any other party a platform for reporting on development in ropeway transportation and discussing their own experiences.

The following seminars have been organized since 1989:

"HYDRAULIC TENSIONING EQUIPMENT ROPEWAYS WITH CONTINUOUS MOVEMENT"
at the ETH Zurich on March 31, 1989.

"NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING DURING MAINTENANCE OF ROPEWAYS"
in Vienna on April 19, 1991.

"SAFETY MEASURES FOR ROLLERS OF MONOCABLE AERIAL ROPEWAYS "
in Zurich on April 27, 1994.

"TOTAL QUALITY OF MOUNTAIN ROPEWAYS- INNOVATIVE PATH INTO THE FUTURE "
in Munich on September 30, 1996.

"RELIABILITY OF ROPEWAYS AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS WITH SPECIAL
CONSIDERATIONS OF PROGRAMMABLE CONTROL SYSTEMS"
in Bolzano on October 16, 1997.

„ROPEWAYS AND EUROPE"
in Grenoble on April 23, 1998.

"ORGANISATION AND SAFETY AT WORK OF CABLEWAY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS"
in Grenoble, April 26, 2000

"EXTENT TO WHICH PRESENT DAY TECHNICAL LIMITS AFFECT THE CONSTRUCTION OF
ROPEWAYS"
in Bolzano, October 12, 2001

SPECIFIC LEGAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES OF THE ROPEWAY INDUSTRY"
in Innsbruck (A) on October 09, 2002

"OPTIMIZATION OF ROPEWAY OPERATION"
in Bolzano on October 03, 2003

"OITAF ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE 2004" - Directive 2000/9/EC: from theory to practice
in Grenoble (F) on April 22, 2004

"CHARACTERISTICS AND INSPECTION OF ROPES"
in Grenoble on April 27, 2006

"SAFETY OF ROPEWAY INSTALLATIONS: WHAT CAN WE DO TO REMAIN A SAFE MEANS
OF TRANSPORT"
in Innsbruck on April 18, 2007

"THE ECONOMICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE ACTIVITY OF ROPEWAY INSTALLATIONS AND
ITS POSITION IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY"
in Oslo on June 27, 2008

„EU DIRECTIVE 2000/9/EC: APPLICATION OF THE EU DIRECTIVE TO THE ELECTRICAL
EQUIPMENT OF ROPEWAY INSTALLATIONS – LATEST EXPERIENCE“
in Innsbruck on April 24, 2009

„ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES OF ROPE DRIVEN
TRANSPORTATION“
in Grenoble on April 21, 2010

"SAFETY OF TRANSPORTATION BY ROPE : LEGAL ISSUES AND ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE"
in Grenoble on April 25, 2012

“OPERATION OF ROPEWAY INSTALLATIONS IN EXCEPTIONAL OPERATING CONDITIONS: EXPERIENCE AND CONTEMPLATE MEASURES”

in Innsbruck on April 11, 2013

“MAINTENANCE OF ROPEWAY ROPES”

in Grenoble on April 24, 2014

"LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, NEWEST TECHNOLOGY AND LATEST FINDINGS IN ROPEWAY CONSTRUCTION"

in Innsbruck on April 16, 2015

"OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IN CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR ROPEWAYS"

in Grenoble on April 14, 2016

“ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE ROPEWAY INDUSTRY – ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS”

in Grenoble on April, 19, 2018

“ECONOMIC AND LEGAL ASPECTS IN THE ROPEWAY INDUSTRY”

in Innsbruck on May 09, 2019

The various presentations made at the seminars can be downloaded from the OITAF website www.oitaf.org.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT OBJECTIVES OF OITAF?

- Addressing technical, economic and legal issues related to ropeways;
- Providing support for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/424 on cableway installations;
- Taking part in the European Commission’s committee on Regulation (EU) 2016/424;
- Developing and revising international recommendations for ropeways in expert committees and working groups on aspect not covered by CEN standards;
- Organizing annual seminars;
- Organizing the OITAF Congress 2023.

Become a member of OITAF,

the common forum for operators, manufacturers, technical supervisory authorities for ropeways and persons or organizations interested in ropeways, in order to:

- contribute to shaping the future of the ropeway industry,
- have direct access to information, and
- gain a lead in knowledge.

Input your KNOW-HOW

- for a top-level exchange of knowledge
- for a strong, common voice
- opportunities for informal discussions
- networking

Contact

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More Information

<http://www.oitaf.org>

Bolzano / Bozen, Mai 2019

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