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Personal equipment for protection against falls — Rope access systems —

Part 2: Code of practice

Équipement individuel de protection contre les chutes — Systèmes d'accès par corde —

Partie 2: Code d'application

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 22846-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 94, *Personal safety — Protective clothing and equipment*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Personal equipment for protection against falls*.

ISO 22846 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Personal equipment for protection against falls — Rope access systems*:

— *Part 1: Fundamental principles for a system of work*

— *Part 2: Code of practice*

Introduction

ISO 22846 (all parts) sets out important criteria for the application of rope access systems for industrial purposes.

ISO 22846-1 sets out fundamental principles; this part of ISO 22846 expands on these, giving recommendations for planning and management, operative competence and responsibilities of personnel, supervision, the selection, use and care of equipment, and advice on how to implement a safe system of work.

Rope access is a method of working at height, typically using synthetic fibre kernmantel ropes and associated equipment, used to gain access to, be supported at, and as a means of egress from, a place of work.

The application of rope access methods are regarded as a complete system, in which planning, competence and suitable equipment are equally important. The malfunction or removal of any component in the system can weaken the operation or prevent the system from operating properly.

This part of ISO 22846 is intended for use by all persons concerned with the use of rope access, including operatives, specifiers, managers, rope access supervisors, purchasing personnel, trainers, clients and regulatory authorities. Users are reminded always to take into account the entire system and not just the component parts.

To ensure a rope access system operates correctly, at least the following factors are important:

— system management and planning;

— competence of the operatives and correct team composition;

— equipment selection, use and maintenance;

— proper organization and execution of working methods.

There can also be other issues to consider, depending upon the nature and location of the work, the competence and experience of operatives and possible local or regional legal requirements.

A failure or shortcoming in any of the above can render the entire system deficient.