

WHAT IS O.I.T.A.F. ?

O.I.T.A.F. is the International Organization for Transportation by Rope. It was founded in Milan (I) in 1959. At present it has 155 members from 35 countries.

WHY O.I.T.A.F. ?

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 O.I.T.A.F. ?

The major aims of O.I.T.A.F. are

- to promote growth and progress in 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 O.I.T.A.F. WORK ?

The organization'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).

WHO CAN BE A MEMBER OF O.I.T.A.F. ?

Membership of the International Organization for Transportation by Rope (O.I.T.A.F.) 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 O.I.T.A.F. ?

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

Working Committee n° I: 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 and 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 is currently made up of ropeway experts from seven European countries (A, I, F, D, E, CH, SLO) with a 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 notebook 8 was completed in 2016, resulting in the current version of the recommendations (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 bicable aerial ropeways for material transport and cable cranes (previous book no. 8), publishing the 2006 version, which was subsequently revised and integrated in the 2010 and 2013 editions. The 2006 version also introduced 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 bicable 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 six European countries (A, D, CH, PL, F, I) with a balanced mix of representatives of supervisory authorities, operators and manufacturers.

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

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 service 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 O.I.T.A.F. 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 to 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 balanced mix of operators, public authorities, supervisory 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 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 with a balanced mix of supervisory bodies, operators and manufacturers in 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, materials used, organization, the environment, etc.
- Analysis of malfunctions, 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 balanced mix 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, they comprise:

- 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
- Snowmaking systems and monitoring of snowmaking 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 O.I.T.A.F. SO FAR ?

Up to now O.I.T.A.F. 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 ropeway installations
Book 16	Recommendations for the design and construction of conveyors intended as a boarding help for chairlifts
Book 17	Report on the state of investigations 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 ropeways 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 ropeway installations
Book 22-1	Recommendation for the definition and identification of essential safety aspects of unidirectional ropeway installations
Book 22-2	Safety aspects requiring due consideration in the safety analysis of components of unidirectional ropeway installations
Book 23	Environmental protection responsibilities of transportation by rope

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 requiring due consideration in the safety analysis of components of bicable reversible aerial ropeways
Book 26	Guideline for evacuation from ropeways
Book 26-1	Calculation method for rescue team size
Book 27	Hazardous scenarios requiring due consideration in the safety analysis of electrotechnical components of unidirectional aerial ropeways
Book 28	General recommendations for initial and maintenance lubrication of steel wire ropes used in ropeway installations for passengers
Book 29	Recommendation on the planning and construction of ropeway installations designed to carry persons
Book 30	Way of improving visual rope inspection (VI)

The various O.I.T.A.F. recommendations can be downloaded by members from the O.I.T.A.F. website at www.oitaf.org.

ORGANIZATION OF O.I.T.A.F. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON TRANSPORTATION BY ROPE

The primary objective of O.I.T.A.F. is the organization of International Conference on the Transportation by Rope. Since its foundation O.I.T.A.F. has 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

O.I.T.A.F. SEMINARS

In 1995 O.I.T.A.F. 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 all interested parties, manufacturers, operators, supervisory authorities or any other party a platform for reporting on developments 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

General Secretariat: Ufficio Trasporti funiviari, Piazza Silvius Magnago 3 I-39100 BOLZANO - tel. +39-0471-414600
 e-mail: info@oitaf.org INTERNET: <http://www.oitaf.org>

SAFETY MEASURES FOR ROPE SHEAVES 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 REFERENCE TO
PROGRAMMABLE CONTROL SYSTEMS
in Bolzano on October 16, 1997

ROPEWAYS AND EUROPE
in Grenoble on April 23, 1998

ORGANIZATION AND SAFETY AT WORK OF CABLEWAY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
in Grenoble on April 26, 2000

EXTENT TO WHICH PRESENT DAY TECHNICAL LIMITS AFFECT THE CONSTRUCTION OF
ROPEWAYS
in Bolzano on 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 3, 2003

O.I.T.A.F. 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 ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF ROPEWAY INSTALLATIONS AND THEIR 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 CONTEMPLATED 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 O.I.T.A.F. website at www.oitaf.org.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT OBJECTIVES OF O.I.T.A.F.?

- Addressing technical, economic and legal issues related to ropeways;
- Providing support for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/424 on ropeway 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 aspects not covered by CEN standards;
- Organizing annual seminars;
- Organizing O.I.T.A.F. Congress 2023.

Become a member of O.I.T.A.F.,

the common forum for operators, manufacturers, supervisory authorities 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

General Secretariat of O.I.T.A.F.

Ufficio trasporti funiviari
Piazza Silvius Magnago 3

I-39100 BOLZANO

Tel. ++39-0471-414600

E-mail: info@oitaf.org

More Information

<http://www.oitaf.org>

Bolzano / Bozen, May 2019