



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

Technical recommendations in effect

**BOOK N. 9-1
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PROVISIONS FOR SPECIAL TRANSPORT CASES

This Recommendation is not mandatory but provides guidance to the profession. Its application would be desirable in all countries, however, without prejudice to national standards as well as requirements specified by public authorities.



ROMA 1957
PARIS 1963
LUZERN 1969
WIEN 1975
MÜNCHEN 1981
GRENOBLE 1987
BARCELONA 1993
SAN FRANCISCO 1999
INNSBRUCK 2005

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PROVISIONS FOR SPECIAL TRANSPORT CASES

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1 General provisions

The transport of certain groups of passengers (persons with reduced mobility, children), animals and goods requires special operational and technical measures before transport begins as well as special terms of transport for them in order to ensure the safety of persons and installations.

The text below specifies some of these requirements for the operation and use of ropeways in order to enable the operator to prepare for these transport cases.

The provisions on the admission and transport of persons with reduced mobility, children, animals as well as goods are to be laid down in a document and made publicly known.

2 Persons with reduced mobility

Installations that are intended to be used by persons with reduced mobility should comply with the provisions of the present chapter.

The transport of persons with reduced mobility and, in particular, of those who use special equipment (wheelchair, mono-ski with molded seat, bi-ski with molded seat, etc.) requires careful preparations on the part of the operator, if necessary in coordination with the manufacturers of special equipment.

These preparations include the adaptation of the terms of transport on the one hand and the drafting of instructions for the personnel.

2.1 *Technical requirements for ropeways*

2.1.1 Requirements for all types of ropeways

To ensure accessibility for wheelchair users, the passageways in the stations should be designed as follows provided this is not prevented for technical or operational reasons:

- Level floor with a maximum incline of 5%;
- Ramps with a reduced incline of 6.5% wherever possible and a maximum of 8%;
- Horizontal landing with a length of 1.5 m every 10 m;
- Changes in direction only on the horizontal landings;
- Non-slip flooring;
- No steps or thresholds whose height exceeds 2 cm or—with beveled edges—4 cm.

The installation should have access ways with a minimum width of 90 cm. At specific points of the installation (e.g. turnstile gates), this width may be reduced to 80 cm.

This width of 90 cm may be achieved as follows:

- Separate access lane;
- Special access gate;
- Two gates next to each other without a pole or with a removable pole between them.

2.1.2 Special requirements for certain types of installation

2.1.2.1 Draglifts

The resistance of the tow-hangers needs to be in line with the load attached for transporting passengers with special equipment.

2.1.2.2 Chairlifts

At chairlifts with loading conveyers, loading should take place in the axis of the conveyer so that passengers do not have to maneuver their equipment for loading.

2.1.2.3. Gondola lifts, reversible ropeways and funiculars

The stations of gondola lifts, reversible ropeways and funiculars should be designed in such a way that persons with special equipment do not need the assistance of more than one person for loading (from the entrance of the station to the carriers) and unloading (up to the exit of the station) and do not have to leave their special equipment behind.

Carriers intended to be used by passengers with special equipment should have a door that is at least 80 cm wide. If there is a risk that special equipment may move accidentally because of the special characteristics of the installation, an anchorage point with a minimum resistance of 1,000 N shall be provided inside the carriers.

If, in the case of specific gondola lifts, it is admissible that the skis fixed to the molded seat protrude from the gondola's door, the loading and unloading areas of the stations as well as the gondolas have to be designed appropriately and operational measures have to take this into account. The protrusion must:

- be compatible with the clearance zone of the installation,
- not result in any risk of entanglement, and
- not impair the normal opening or closing of the door.

2.2 Operational requirements

2.2.1 Requirements for passenger access

If persons need additional assistance or want to use special equipment because of the nature of their motor disability, they have to agree with the operator on the transport modalities in advance. This agreement should be reached before they buy a ticket.

If a person with reduced mobility uses specific equipment (wheelchair, mono-ski with molded seat, bi-ski with molded seat, etc.), this equipment should be suitable for use on ropeways. If suitability is not evident or cannot be established by comparison with equipment known to and accepted by the operator or demonstrated by a special certificate, the operator may require that a test is performed before the equipment is transported. If the result of the test is not satisfactory, the operator may refuse transportation.

The suitability of special equipment that passengers want to transport on a ropeway can be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- Draglifts:
 - Easy and safe attachment and detachment, even in case the passenger falls;
 - Jerk-free departure after attachment;
 - Keeping to the track and maintaining stability during the ride;
 - Possibility to prevent the passenger or the special equipment from slipping in case of an unintentional release of the towing unit or when the passenger falls (brakes preventing backward slippage on the equipment or possibility for the user to stop slipping after a fall).

- Chairlifts
 - Compliance with the clearance zone;
 - Loading:
 - ✓ Suitable seat height of the special equipment;
 - ✓ Possibility to close the safety bar;
 - ✓ Sufficient stability of the special equipment on a chair;
 - Unloading:
 - ✓ Sufficient stability of the special equipment during unloading.

- Aerial ropeways:
 - Rope evacuation:
 - ✓ Sufficient stability of the suspended special equipment with its user.

2.2.2 Conditions for using an installation

- Provisions for all installations:

The following conditions should be respected when persons with reduced mobility are transported:

- When special equipment taking up more space is transported, the number of passenger admitted to a carrier has to be reduced, if necessary.
- If an accompanying person is required, this person has to travel aboard the same carrier as the person with reduced mobility.
- The installation has to be slowed down or stopped if this is necessary so that the person with reduced mobility can get on or off.
- The personnel of the unloading station has to be informed that a person with reduced mobility is transported.

The number of persons with reduced mobility who may be transported aboard one carrier and on the entire installation at the same time has to be laid down taking account of the type of installation and the nature of the motor disability of the passengers in order to ensure the safety of transportation and, if necessary, evacuation.

- Special provisions for draglifts:

Special equipment may be used on draglifts whose incline does not exceed 40%.

A safe distance should be provided between the person with reduced mobility and the next draglift user. This distance has to be determined especially with a view to the incline of the installation.

A ski run has to be easily accessible from each point of the tow track.

- Conditions for rope evacuation:

The possibility of taking persons with reduced mobility as well as their special equipment to a safe place after rope evacuation should be examined for each installation.

Likewise, the operator should define procedures for evacuating persons with reduced mobility and their special equipment in the evacuation plan. Any recommendations made by the manufacturers of special equipment should be taken into account.

In most cases sports equipment with a molded seat for disabled persons are abseiled using two 1.5 m long belts. One belt is placed around the backrest of the special equipment and below the arms of the passenger, which produces a first point of attachment. The second belt is placed below the special equipment at the height of the passenger's knees in front of the shock absorber, if available. The two belts are joined to produce a single point of attachment for the rope used for abseiling.

3 Transportation of children less than 1.25 m tall with chairlifts

3.1 Preamble

When children less than 1.25 m tall are transported, special precautions have to be taken. These precautions are the subject of the present recommendation.

In the following text, the term "children" refers to children less than 1.25 m tall.

3.2 Persons concerned

3.2.1 Children

- The transportation of children is only permitted if they are accompanied by a responsible person or an attendant.
- The responsible person or attendant must sit directly next to the child, i.e. there must not be an empty seat between them. No more than two children may sit next to one another. If special technical measures are provided, this requirement may be waived.
- Each child counts as a person. However, a single small child may sit on the knees of the responsible person if the safety bar can be closed properly. In such a case the responsible person must not accompany any other children.

3.2.2 Responsible persons

Persons responsible for children are their parents or other persons to whom supervision of the children has been entrusted (friends, ski instructors, etc.).

The responsible person/s is/are responsible for assessing whether children are able to use a chairlift and behave accordingly as well as for explaining the rules

governing the use of chairlifts and correct behavior—also in case the chairlifts stops during the trip.

In the case of an accompanied group, the person responsible for the group has to make sure that the children are assigned to chairs and seats in compliance with the organizational measures of the operator. He/she has to ensure in due time before loading that the passengers who have been asked to accompany children agree to do so. In the text below, the term “attendant” refers to those passengers.

3.2.3 Attendants

The attendant(s) must be able to provide the required assistance to the children with whom they are travelling on the same chair, in particular with regard to opening or closing the safety bar and complying with safety instructions.

3.2.4 Chairlift personnel

In the loading area: Chairlift personnel must be particularly diligent and vigilant when one or more children board the chairlift.

They have to:

- Verify the correct assignment of children and attendants to chairs and seats,
- Verify proper boarding until the safety bar has been closed,
- Provide assistance, if requested or necessary,
- Stop the chairlift if a passenger is in difficulty.

In the unloading area: Chairlift personnel has to provide assistance, if requested or necessary.

The provisions listed above should be specified in the operating instructions of the chairlift.

3.3 Rules governing the use of chairlifts

The responsible persons have to make children aware of the need to comply with the following rules:

- Observing the instructions and indications that are usually given by means of pictograms on a board at the loading station of the chairlift;
- Pulling their hands out of the wrist straps of the ski poles and holding the ski poles in one hand during boarding;
- Seating themselves as far back as possible on the seats;
- Making sure that a responsible person or attendant closes the safety bar;
- Sitting still during the ride, not turning back their head or body, not getting chairs to sway and not fidgeting on the seat;
- Not holding objects in their hands extended outside the chair and not throwing objects down from the chair;
- Keeping skis parallel to one another and to the direction of travel with the tips upside and placing the skis on the footrests, if possible;
- Releasing one foot from the binding when using a snowboard;
- Never jumping down from the seat in any circumstances;
- Keeping calm if the chairlift stops and waiting for the instructions of the chairlift personnel;
- Checking before unloading that no object is caught in the chair;

- Keeping the safety bar closed until the chair reaches the sign “open the safety bar” and only then taking the skis or snowboard off the footrest and making sure that the safety bar is opened;
- Getting up and gliding down from the seat when the skis touch the ground;
- Leaving the unloading area immediately;
- Remaining seated and waiting for the instructions of the chairlift personnel in case they failed to disembark.

3.4 Recommendations for organizational measures

Loading area

- Putting up signs informing passengers about the rules according to 3.2.1;
- Providing a clear mark of the height limit of 1.25 m so that it is well visible for passengers and personnel;
- Reducing the height of the seat in relation to the ground.

4 Exclusions

Persons have to be excluded from transportation if:

- they do not comply with applicable legislation and the terms of transportation;
- they do not obey instructions given by the operator or personnel for reasons of safety or public order;
- they could endanger safety and public order or cause public annoyance because of their condition or conduct.

If such persons have to be returned to the other station, they have to be accompanied as appropriate.

5 Animals

Animals may be transported if this does not affect safe operation, the owner safely keeps the animal under control and if there are no objections from any other passengers.

6 Goods

The transportation of goods—other than light, non-bulky luggage such as gliding equipment, backpacks, etc.—may be permitted under the following conditions:

- Checking the position and fixation of the goods by chairlift personnel to avoid hazards for persons;
- Verifying compliance with the permitted payload;
- Examining and imposing special terms of transportation for goods projecting beyond the normal dimensions of the carrier and for hazardous goods, such as flammable or explosive products and corrosive or radioactive substances, etc.;
- Prohibiting the simultaneous transportation of hazardous goods and passengers.