

International organisation for Transportation by Rope

O.I.T.A.F.

UPHILL CONVEYANCE SYSTEMS FOR WINTERSPORTS

Book 15

edition 2000

Withdrawn by the Management Committee of the O.I.T.A.F. in 2003

O.I.T.A.F. Committee n° 6

OITAF COMMITTEE N° 6

Uphill conveyance systems for wintersports

1. Introduction

OITAF Committee n° 6 have realized and taken note of the development of a new system of transportation of passengers that may be described as follows :

- ◆ it consists of a conveyor belt placed flush with the snow surface
- ◆ its slope is slight or nill
- ◆ its length is short
- ◆ very low speed
- ◆ no permanent presence of an attendant to supervise it

Even though it is not a rope driven system of transportation, committee n° 6, having considered the experience made so far with this system, agreed on the opportunity and utility for operators to write a recommendation for the operation of this new system of conveyance.

O.I.T.A.F. herewith suggest a number of simple rules for the safe operation of this system which however do not impair the application of other relevant general rules.

2. Risk assessment

Despite the simple configuration of the system, due consideration shall be given to the following hazards :

- falling hazard
- collision hazard
- trapping and crushing hazard
- electrical hazard

A number of recommendations of measures to be taken in order to avoid these hazards are given in the following chapter.

3. Recommendations

The following recommendations are deemed to be applicable to the conveyance of passengers without special supervision.

It shall be permitted to take other measures that differ from the following recommendations provided that it is proven that they provide at least the same level of safety against the above hazards.

3.1 The travelling speed shall be less than or equal to 0.4 m/s

- 3.2 Maximum longitudinal inclination : 25 %; transverse slope shall be avoided
- 3.3 The conveyor shall
- have a closed slip-resistant surface
 - have the necessary strength to resist to tearing and perforation (ski sticks)
 - resist to the intended traffic load without deformation
- 3.4 In addition conveyors shall meet the following requirements
- to have an adequate overlap between lateral guards and the mobile part of the conveyor
 - lateral guards shall have no protruding or sharp points and have hardly any surface rugosity
- 3.5 Care shall be taken to eliminate any likely cause of hazard at the point of transition between conveyor and snow covered surface. To prevent any drawing-in hazard the conveyor shall be fitted with an automatic device installed at its drawing-in point that stops the conveyor and triggers an emergency signal.
- 3.6 Execution of the power supply, drive and controls shall be in accordance with the general standards governing their execution; this applies in particular to the protection against the hazard of contact and protection against weather exposure.
- 3.7 For the sake of safety and ease of use of the conveyor care shall be taken to choose a user-friendly layout of the area of departure and the area of arrival. Stop button shall be installed within the reach of the passengers.
- 3.8 Care shall be taken to adequately signal the presence of the conveyor and protect passengers against collision with other sportspeople using the trail. Appropriate measures shall be taken to prevent any unauthorized or unintended start or restart of the conveyor.