



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

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Recommendation relating to fire prevention and control requirements to be met in operation and during maintenance of ropeways installations

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

Sede : I-00188 ROMA – Via Suzzara, 19
Segreteria: Ufficio Trasporti Funiviari
I-BOLZANO Via Crispi 10
Email: info@oitaf.org

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Recommendation relating to fire prevention and control requirements to be met in operation and during maintenance of ropeways installations

1. Foreword

These recommendations include all essential fire prevention and fire control requirements relating to the operation and maintenance of ropeway installations.

The primary objective of these recommendations is to ensure in the event of a fire the safety of persons by specifying the steps to be taken so as to recover carriers and rescue passengers from stations within the shortest possible spell of time.

These recommendations are not concerned with design, construction and commissioning of ropeway installations.

The following staff behaviour regulations are to become an integral part of operations regulations, while passenger behaviour regulations are to become an integral part of transport conditions.

Fire prevention and control being the only scope of these recommendations they ought to be regarded as a set of complementary regulations to be added to other existing regulations.

2. Responsibilities of the staff

2.1 Mission assigned to the manager

The manager shall take the following action to prevent fire from breaking out and control fire. He may take the advice of fire experts to assist him in the exercise of his duties.

- He shall have a specific risk assessment made of the installation he is responsible for and its environment
- He shall have a plan drawn up specifying all fire prevention and control measures to be taken and the fire fighting equipment to be made available : fire prevention, fire control, rescue of persons and first aid. Measures to be taken shall be detailed in the operation instructions and incorporated as an integral part into operations regulations

- He shall have the plan and all instructions circulated to all relevant services and all members of the stall. He shall provide passengers and other persons with the necessary information on the behaviour they are expected to comply with in the event of fire.
- He shall provide the staff with regular information, professional training and practice consistent with the operative's capability and mission.
- He shall have to organize third party assistance if any (fire experts, fire brigades, relief squads etc)
- He shall update and file all relevant documents on fire prevention and control.

2.2 Scope of activities assigned to other members of the staff

The other members of the staff shall conform with received instructions and take the necessary action to prevent the outbreak of and its propagation

In particular the other members of the staff shall

- Carry out all fire prevention and fire control instructions
- Have to get to know exactly the available fire protection equipment, its location, its functional performance and the way in which it should be used.
- Supervise passengers' compliance with passenger behaviour regulations and in the case of non-respect, make passengers comply with these regulations which are laid down as an integral part of transport conditions (no smoking, defence to carry forbidden substances, ...) supervise the whole length of the track the operative can see from his working place and thus contribute to a timely detection of the outbreak of a fire
- Shall signal any observed disorder or irregularity

3. Requirements to be met by the by the staff

Members of the shall possess the necessary skill and capacities (capability, necessary knowledge, reliability) to perform the assigned fire prevention and fire control functions.

4. Operating procedures

Transportation of inflammable products shall be permitted only outside the public operating time reserved for the transportation of persons and provided that all relevant fire prevention and control regulations or – should no administrative regulations had been enforced – specific fire prevention and control instructions have been met.

Regardless of other specific regulations on forbidden destinations of different areas of the premises, smoking, as well as the lightning and use of open fire in areas and carriers accessible to the public shall be forbidden. Pictographs conveniently placed in a position or place where they could be easily seen shall draw everybody's attention to these restrictive regulations.

All fire alarm systems, fire extinguishers and fire extinguishing systems listed in the fire prevention and control plan shall be

- Suited for the intended purpose
- Kept in a perfect state of operability and subjected to perfect maintenance
- Unmistakably identified
- Easily accessible

5. Maintenance and in operation checks

The equipment, operating materials and the use made of the premises of a ropeway installation shall conform to the specifications and foreseen destination of the project.

In order to limit the risk of a fire outbreak and fire propagation provisions shall be taken to keep the ropeway installation and its immediate surrounding perfectly tidy, clean and perfectly maintained. In particular

- any inflammable product that might cause the fire to break out or feed it shall be kept and stored in appropriate areas, rooms, cupboards or containers.
- Whenever circumstances impose the necessity to use or handle inflammable products or use an open flame, it is indispensable to observe the necessary precaution and to take all required preventive measures, and in particular, to limit the quantity of such products to a minimum.
- Provisions shall be taken to limit the risk of an outbreak or propagation of fire along the line and to this end, to tidy and trim any easy inflammable vegetation along the line

Frequency and details of in operation checks, in particular checks of the following items of the equipment, are specified in administrative regulations, constructor's servicing and maintenance directions and relevant instructions of the operator

- Fire prevention and fire control equipment
- Fire warning systems and fire extinguishing equipment
- Escape routes and exits
- Electrical equipment and devices, and in particular, checks of the setting of protections and tightness of connections
- Lightning protections, and in particular, the perfect state of lightning rods and of the lightning protection earth and lightning rod earth
- The hydraulic system
- The storage and distribution equipment of inflammable liquids and gas
- Mechanical equipment subject to abnormal overheating
- Heating installation and appliances, as well as their correct use.

Test results shall be put on record and the relative documents filed.

6. Modifications

The fire hazard of any modification of the equipment, change of materials and variation of the use that is made of the premises of a ropeway installation shall be assessed by a specific risk analysis.