



# **IRATA International code of practice for industrial rope access**

## **Part 4: Local legislation: UK**

**Please note that this version of Part 4 applies to the UK only.**

**December 2013**

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Amd. No	Date	Text affected
1	2013-Dec-01	Front cover: <i>December 2013</i> replaces <i>2013 edition</i> . This page: change of IRATA address and telephone number. Page 1: title of Part 4 adds <i>United Kingdom only</i> . Page 1: Introduction: new last sentence to paragraph 1 reference Northern Ireland. Page 1: 4.1, paragraph 1: instructions on how to make hyperlink deleted; CDM Regulations: note added; Construction (Head protection) Regulations deleted. Page 2: additional guidance on Electricity at Work Regulations included; Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations: note added; Highways Act 1980: note added; paragraph on LOLER: typo corrected; Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations: guidance reference deleted. Page 3: RIDDOR information updated; 4.2.1: new last sub-clause added (4.2.1.3). Page 4: 4.2.4 Construction (Head Protection Regulations) deleted and the rest of 4.2 renumbered. Note added to new 4.2.4 Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations. Page 7: 4.2.11 Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Incidents: information updated and new sub-clauses added (4.2.11.3, 4.2.11.4 and 4.2.11.5). Date in footer updated.

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## Part 4: Local legislation: United Kingdom only

### Introduction

Part 4 provides information on legislation that applies in a particular country or region, in this case the United Kingdom (UK). There are variations to the legislation quoted in Northern Ireland, see [www.hseni.gov.uk](http://www.hseni.gov.uk).

For legislation applicable to countries or regions other than the UK, readers should consult the IRATA International code of practice adopted by that particular area, e.g. Australia, Benelux, Brazil, North America, South Africa, South-east Asia, or the appropriate Regional Advisory Committee (RAC).

As well as providing information on UK legislation, this UK version of Part 4 also gives details of Health and Safety Executive (HSE) approved codes of practice, guidance and other supporting literature. It first lists the legislation alphabetically and then explains the requirements of some of it. Finally, information is provided on the relationship between legislation and standards.

It should be noted that Part 4 is not intended as an interpretation of the law and does not relieve employers of their duties under the various legal requirements that may relate to their specific location, situation and applications.

Although care has been taken to ensure, to the best of IRATA International's knowledge, that the content of Part 4 is accurate, IRATA International assumes no responsibility for any errors, omissions or misinterpretations of such content or any loss or damage arising from or related to its use.

### 4.1 Applicable UK legislation, HSE approved codes of practice and guidance

The following list details UK legislation applicable to rope access work. It refers to the formal legislative reference number, i.e. the Statutory Instrument (SI) and provides the titles and reference numbers of associated HSE approved codes of practice (known as ACoPs) and guidance documents. Many of these documents have always been free of charge and many others have become so since November 2009. Hyperlinks are provided, giving direct access to the documents via a computer.

Confined Spaces Regulations 1997 ([SI 1997/1713](#)) and HSE approved code of practice and guidance: *Safe work in confined spaces* ([HSE L101](#))

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (known as the *CDM Regulations*) ([SI 2007/320](#)) and HSE approved code of practice *Managing health and safety in construction* ([HSE L144](#)). Also see **4.2.2**.

*NOTE* At the time of publication of this version of ICOP Part 4, these regulations are under review.

Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 ([SI 2012/632](#)), and HSE approved code of practice and guidance *Work with materials containing asbestos* ([HSE L143](#))

Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 ([SI 2005/1643](#)) and HSE guidance ([HSE L108](#))

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (known as *COSHH*) ([SI 2002/2677](#)) (as amended), plus: HSE approved code of practice and guidance *Control of substances hazardous to health (fifth edition)* ([HSE L5](#)); HSE guidance *Workplace exposure limits*, 2011 update ([EH40](#)); HSE guidance *Working with substances hazardous to health* ([HSE INDG 136 REV 5](#)); HSE guidance *A step by step guide to COSHH assessment* ([HSG 97](#)) and *Fumigation* ([HSG 251](#))

Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 ([SI 2005/1093](#)) and HSE guidance *Hand-arm vibration* ([HSE L140](#))

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 ([SI 1989/635](#)) plus HSE guidance *Electrical safety and you* ([INDG 231 Revision 1, 2012](#)); *Electricity at work - Safe working practices* ([HSG85 Third edition, 2013](#)); *Memorandum of guidance on the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989* ([HSR25 Second edition, 2007](#)) and *Maintaining portable and transportable electrical equipment* ([HSG107 Third edition, 2013](#))

#### [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#)

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 (SI 1981/917), amended by the Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/2174), and HSE approved code of practice and guidance *First aid at work* (HSE L74)

*NOTE* The regulations were amended on 01 October 2013 to remove the requirement for HSE to approve first aid training and qualifications. Information, including the regulations and guidance for employers is available at [www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/)

Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 ([SI 1996/341](#)) and HSE guidance *Safety signs and signals* ([HSE L64](#))

#### [Highways Act 1980](#)

*NOTE* At the time of publication of this version of ICOP Part 4, there are outstanding changes not yet made by the [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk) editorial team to Highways Act 1980. Any changes that have already been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (known as *LOLER*) ([SI 1998/2307](#)), amended by the Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 ([SI 2002/2174](#)), plus HSE approved code of practice and guidance *Safe use of lifting equipment 1998* ([HSE L113](#)), [HSE Open learning guidance](#) and HSE guidance document [ACOLAR LOLER](#), which explains the relationship between LOLER and rope access. Also see **4.2.5**.

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (known as the *MHSW Regulations*) ([SI 1999/3242](#)). Also see **4.2.6**.

Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 ([SI 1992/2793](#)), amended by the Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 ([SI 2002/2174](#)), plus HSE guidance *Manual handling, Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (as amended)* (HSE [L23](#)) and *Getting to grips with manual handling* ([INDG 143](#)). Also see **4.2.8**.

#### [Mineral Workings \(Offshore Installations\) Act 1971](#)

Offshore Installations and Pipeline Works (Management and Administration) Regulations 1995 (known as *MAR*) ([SI 1995/738](#)) and HSE guidance ([HSE L70](#))

Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction) Regulations 1996 (known as *DCR*) ([SI 1996/913](#)) and HSE guidance (HSE [L84](#) and [L85](#))

Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion and Emergency Response) Regulations 1995 (known as *PFEER*) ([SI 1995/743](#)) and HSE approved code of practice and guidance *Prevention of fire and explosion, and emergency response on offshore installations* ([HSE L65](#))

Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 2005 (known as *SCR*) ([SI 2005/3117](#)) and HSE guidance ([HSE L30](#))

Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002 (known as the *PPE Regulations*) ([SI 2002/1144](#))

Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (known as the *PPE at Work Regulations*) ([SI 1992/2966](#)), amended by the Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 ([SI 2002/2174](#)), and HSE guidance ([HSE L25](#)). Also see **4.2.4**.

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (known as *PUWER*) ([SI 1998/2306](#)), amended by the Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 ([SI 2002/2174](#)), and HSE approved code of practice *Safe use of work equipment* ([HSE L22](#)). Also see **4.2.3**.

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (known as *RIDDOR 2013*), plus HSE guidance *A guide to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013* ([HSE INDG453](#) (Rev1) and, for offshore, [HSE Operations Notice 30](#)). Also see **4.2.11**.

Work at Height Regulations 2005 (known as the *WAHR*) ([SI 2005/735](#)) as amended by the Work at Height (Amendment) Regulations 2007 ([SI 2007/114](#)), and HSE guidance ([HSE INDG401](#)). Also see **4.2.7**.

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 ([SI 1992/3004](#)) as amended by the Quarries Regulations 1999 ([SI 1999/2024](#)) and the Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 ([SI 2002/2174](#)), plus the HSE approved code of practice and guidance *Workplace health, safety and welfare* ([HSE L24](#)).

## **4.2 Brief explanation of some UK legislation**

### **4.2.1 General**

**4.2.1.1** In general terms, the work described in this IRATA International code of practice is covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971. This legislation places general duties on employers, clients, contractors, owners, employees and the self-employed. Under the umbrella of these acts, many regulations have been made, which expand on these general duties. Some of these regulations deal with particular issues, e.g. first aid, while other regulations made under the acts bring into force the requirements of European (EC) directives. These regulations draw attention to the duties of clients, owners and designers of structures to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, any work to be carried out in the workplace is able to be done so safely. Every employer is required to ensure that they comply with all legal safety requirements relating to the type of work being undertaken and at the particular worksite concerned.

**4.2.1.2** Regulations are often tied in with other regulations. For example, where work is classed as construction work under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM Regulations) other regulations also apply, such as the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER). Even where these regulations do not apply, it is possible that their requirements could be regarded as 'being a reasonably practicable safe system of work' under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Employers and persons or companies commissioning rope access work are advised, therefore, to consider the requirements of these regulations.

**4.2.1.3** Some sections of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 apply beyond the mainland of Great Britain to specified offshore areas and work activities. The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013, which came into effect on 6 April 2013, provides detail. Guidance is given in Offshore Information Sheet 1/2013.

### **4.2.2 Construction (Design and Management) Regulations**

**4.2.2.1** The CDM Regulations place a legal responsibility on the client to ensure that those they employ have an adequate level of competence for the work being undertaken and that they are able to meet the requirements to work safely.

**4.2.2.2** Where the CDM Regulations apply, a health and safety file is required. This has to contain information in connection with the safety aspects of the construction work. Some or the entire file should be made available to those planning to carry out rope access work. When the construction work has been completed, it may be necessary to update the health and safety file. Similar requirements apply offshore, under the Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 2005 (SCR).

### **4.2.3 The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations**

**4.2.3.1** The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) require risks to people's health and safety from equipment that they use at work to be prevented or controlled. The regulations apply to all work equipment, including lifting equipment. Under PUWER, it is required that suitable work equipment is selected in terms of its construction and design, where it is to be used and the purpose for which it is to be used.

**4.2.3.2** In general terms, PUWER require that equipment provided for use at work is:

- a) suitable for the intended use;
- b) safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and, in certain circumstances, inspected to ensure this remains the case;
- c) used only by people who have received adequate information, instruction and training;
- d) accompanied by suitable safety measures, e.g. protective devices, markings, warnings.

### **4.2.4 Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations**

**4.2.4.1** The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (the PPE at Work Regulations), as amended, cover equipment for work at height. The main requirement of the regulations is that suitable personal protective equipment (including some clothing) is supplied and used at work wherever there are risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled in other ways. There is a useful guidance document on these regulations, which includes the regulations: HSE guidance document Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992, Guidance on Regulations (HSE L25).

**4.2.4.2** The PPE at Work Regulations also require that personal protective equipment (PPE):

- a) is properly assessed before use to ensure it is suitable;
- b) is maintained and stored properly;
- c) is provided with instructions on how to use it safely;
- d) is used correctly by employees.

*NOTE Under the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992, there is a requirement for operatives to wear appropriate protective helmets, even though the Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989 were revoked on 06 April 2013.*

### **4.2.5 Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations**

**4.2.5.1** The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) is aimed at ensuring that all lifting operations are properly planned and managed; that lifting equipment is used in a safe manner and that it is thoroughly examined (has a detailed inspection) at suitable intervals by a competent person.

**4.2.5.2** Lifting equipment under LOLER means work equipment that lifts or lowers loads and includes its attachments used for anchoring, fixing or supporting it, for example, strops, chains, slings, eye-bolts, anchorage equipment such as rigging and associated items used in rope access methods, including ropes; karabiners, harnesses and lanyards and counterbalanced roof rigs.

**4.2.5.3** It is important to note that under LOLER, the term load includes a person.

**4.2.5.4** LOLER applies to a wide range of lifting equipment and lifting operations and includes, for example, personal suspension equipment used during rope access work.

**4.2.5.5** LOLER requires lifting equipment to be thoroughly examined (given a detailed inspection) by a competent person before first use and at intervals not exceeding six months, or in accordance with a written examination scheme. In addition to these examinations, LOLER require additional thorough examinations to be carried out where circumstances liable to jeopardize safety have occurred. Thorough examinations are required to be recorded in a written report. Unless this has been done, it is not legal for the lifting equipment to be used.

#### **4.2.6 Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations**

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require employers to take into account employees' capabilities with regard to health and safety when allocating them work. The regulations require that, before rope access techniques are selected for a particular job, employers carry out a risk assessment and set out clear requirements for all aspects of the work. (Risk assessment is addressed in Part 2 and in Part 3, Annex A. A useful HSE guidance document is *Five steps to risk assessment* [[INDG 163](#)]). In addition, the work project should be assessed carefully to ensure that the method of access is appropriate for the type and quality of the work to be carried out.

#### **4.2.7 Work at Height Regulations**

**4.2.7.1** As a result of the European Council (EC) Directive 2001/45/EC concerning minimum safety and health requirements for the use of equipment for work at height (known as the Temporary Work at Height Directive or TWAHD), a major change was made to UK legislation by the introduction of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. These regulations consolidated previous UK legislation on working at height and added further requirements. The regulations were amended in 2007 to take account of professionals working in the climbing, mountaineering and caving arenas.

**4.2.7.2** The Work at Height Regulations 2005 (WAHR), including its 2007 amendment, apply to all work at height where there is a risk of a fall liable to cause personal injury. This applies above, at or below ground level. The regulations place duties on employers, the self-employed, and any person that controls the work of others to the extent of their control (e.g. facilities managers or building owners who may contract others to work at height).

**4.2.7.3** Under WAHR, work at height has to be properly planned, appropriately supervised and carried out in a safe manner. This includes the need to plan for emergencies and rescue. In addition, employers are required to ensure that work at height is only carried out when the weather conditions do not jeopardize the health and safety of persons involved in the work (see Regulation 4).

**4.2.7.4** Regulation 5 of WAHR requires every employer to ensure that no person engages in any activity, including organization, planning and supervision, in relation to work at height or work equipment for use in such work unless he/she is competent to do so or, if being trained, is being supervised by a competent person.

**4.2.7.5** Regulation 6 of WAHR requires every employer to take account of a risk assessment under the MHSW Regulations (Regulation 3). WAHR gives a hierarchy of protection measures, where the preferred option is to eliminate the risk, e.g. by not working at height at all, with other, less preferred, options lower down the list.

**4.2.7.6** Regulation 7 of WAHR requires collective protection measures to be given priority over personal protection measures. Equipment has to be appropriate to the nature of the work to be performed and foreseeable loadings. When selecting work equipment for use in work at height, the following have to be taken into account:

- a) the working conditions and the risks to the safety of persons at the place where the work equipment is to be used;
- b) in the case of work equipment for access and egress, the distance to be negotiated;
- c) the distance and consequences of a potential fall;
- d) the duration and frequency of use;

- e) the need for easy and timely evacuation and rescue in an emergency;
- f) any additional risk posed by the use, installation or removal of that work equipment or by evacuation and rescue from it.

**4.2.7.7** Regulation 9 of WAHR requires every employer to ensure that no person at work passes across or near (or works on, from or near) a fragile surface where it is reasonably practicable to carry out work safely, and under appropriate ergonomic conditions, without their doing so.

**4.2.7.8** Regulation 12 of WAHR requires that work equipment exposed to conditions causing deterioration which is liable to result in dangerous situations is inspected at suitable intervals and each time that exceptional circumstances which are liable to jeopardise the safety of the work equipment have occurred. Inspection, care and maintenance of equipment are covered in Part 2 of this IRATA International code of practice.

## **4.2.8 Manual Handling Operations Regulations**

**4.2.8.1** The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (as amended March 2004) (MHOR) requires a risk assessment to be carried out on manual handling tasks. The HSE guidance on the Manual Handling Operations Regulations, (HSE L23) includes a risk assessment filter and checklist to help employers assess manual handling tasks. HSE document [Manual handling – frequently asked questions](#), provides answers to common questions.

**4.2.8.2** The employer's duty is to avoid manual handling as far as reasonably practicable if there is a possibility of injury. If this cannot be done, the employer has to reduce the risk of injury as far as reasonably practicable. If an employee complains of discomfort, any changes to work made to avoid or reduce manual handling has be monitored to check they are having a positive effect. If the changes are not working satisfactorily, alternatives have to be considered.

**4.2.8.3** The regulations set out a hierarchy of measures to reduce the risks of manual handling. These are in regulation 4(1) and are as follows:

- a) avoid hazardous manual handling operations so far as reasonably practicable;
- b) assess any hazardous manual handling operations that cannot be avoided;
- c) reduce the risk of injury so far as reasonably practicable.

**4.2.8.4** In addition, employees have duties to take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions. They must communicate with their employers so that they too are able to meet their health and safety duties.

## **4.2.9 Additional regulations when working offshore**

For those working or intending to work offshore, a few additional regulations apply. Legislation that applies to offshore working includes the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction) Regulations 1996 (DCR), the Offshore Installations and Pipeline Works (Management and Administration) Regulations 1995 (MAR) and the Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion and Emergency Response) Regulations, 1995 (PFEER).

## **4.2.10 Regulations dealing with specific types of hazard**

There are some regulations which deal with specific types of hazard. Two examples are the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) and its 2003 amendment, and the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2006. There are HSE approved codes of practice for both these regulations. The Noise at Work Regulations 1989 require employers to assess the noise levels and to take appropriate action, e.g. provide operatives with hearing protectors. Employers need to understand fully the requirements of such regulations when they plan to undertake work that might involve their workforce coming into contact with hazardous materials or conditions. This applies to both on and offshore working.

#### **4.2.11 Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations**

**4.2.11.1** The reporting of accidents and ill health at work is a legal requirement under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, 2013 (RIDDOR 2013). The regulations require that in the event of a fatal accident, major injury or dangerous occurrence, the responsible person notifies the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) by the quickest practical means and these incidents should be reported to the Incident Control Centre (ICC).

**4.2.11.2** Since 6 April 2012, the over-three-day reporting requirement for people injured at work changed to more than seven days. From that date, it became only necessary to report injuries that lead to an employee or self-employed person being away from work, or unable to perform their normal work duties, for more than seven consecutive days as the result of an occupational accident or injury (not counting the day of the accident but including weekends and rest days). The report must be made within 15 days of the accident. Such reports should be made to the ICC online.

**4.2.11.3** The regulations were further amended on 01 October 2013. The main changes made were:

- a) The classification of 'major injuries' to workers has been replaced with a shorter list of 'specified injuries'.
- b) The existing schedule detailing 47 types of industrial disease has been replaced with eight categories of reportable work-related illness.
- c) Fewer types of 'dangerous occurrence' require reporting.

**4.2.11.4** The changes affect all employers, including the self-employed. Information and guidance is available on the HSE website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/>.

**4.2.11.5** The amendments do not alter the duties and responsibilities already placed on employers. For example, businesses still have a legal duty to make arrangements to ensure their employees receive immediate attention if they are injured or taken ill at work. Neither do the amendments affect how an incident at work is reported and the criteria that determine whether an incident should be investigated.

**4.2.11.6** Under EU law, employers and others with responsibilities under RIDDOR still have to keep a record of all over-three-day injuries. The record required under the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979, is enough to satisfy this requirement.

**4.2.11.7** These regulations require any accident where the time lost by the injured person is over three days, or where a serious incident (dangerous occurrence) has occurred, to be recorded. In addition, information on the time lost by the injured person and others in the work team has to be provided.

#### **4.2.12 Helpful documents**

**4.2.12.1** Two HSE documents that provide valuable information for rope access technicians and their employers are *Health and Safety in Construction (HSG 150)* and *Health and Safety in Roof Work (HSG 33)*. The documents cover topics such as organizing the site, the essentials of health and safety, health and safety management and the law. Although following the guidance in the documents is not a legal requirement, the documents do provide sufficient information to enable the user to comply with the law.

**4.2.12.2** HSE's *Leading health and safety at work (INDG 417)* provides leadership actions for directors and board members.

**4.2.12.3** Sufficient, effective supervision and adequate support from managers play a vital part in ensuring a safe system of work. The use of the phrase *human factors* by supervisors and managers is wide-ranging. Advice is given in HSE's document [Introduction to human factors](#). More good advice is

given in: *Reducing error and influencing behaviour*, ([HSG 48](#)). HSE document [Leadership and worker involvement toolkit](#) addresses reducing harm by learning from the best in the construction industry.

**4.2.12.4** A good occupational safety and health management system is important and [BS OHSAS 18001: 2007](#) provides a good model. Also, see HSE document *Successful safety management* ([HSG65](#)).

### **4.3. Standards and legal requirements**

**4.3.1** The use of standards is voluntary, in that it is not a statutory requirement to comply with codes of practice or to conform to product standards. However, standards are often used to support the law. In the case of HSE approved codes of practice, following them enables users to ensure they comply with the law.

**4.3.2** The Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002, which are based on the Personal Protective Equipment Directive (89/686/EEC) (known as the PPE directive), require that equipment classified under the directive as PPE conforms to the directive, which includes the need to carry CE marking.

**4.3.3** European Standards (ENs) are used to help prove conformance of a product to the PPE directive. To use a European Standard straightforwardly as a route to conformance to the directive, the standard has to be what is known as harmonised. This means it has been formally confirmed that the standard meets the requirements of the basic health and safety requirements of Annex II of the directive, and that it has been referenced in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). If a product conforms to a harmonized European Standard, there is a presumption of conformity with the PPE directive, in terms of meeting the basic health and safety requirements of Annex II. Assuming other requirements of the directive have been satisfied, this then allows the equipment to be marked with the symbol CE and other marking.

**4.3.4** There are three categories of PPE, ranging from simple items like gardening gloves (category 1) to category III equipment for protection against mortal danger, e.g. harnesses. Most rope access equipment is classed as PPE category III. In this case, the equipment also has to carry the number of the notified body, i.e. the body responsible for checking that the product conforms to the directive, after type testing to the standard by an independent test house.

**4.3.5** Conformance of products to a European Standard is not the only way in which products can claim conformance to the PPE directive and be able to carry CE marking. For example, where appropriate European Standards do not exist, another standard, such as an ISO Standard, could be used or manufacturers can use their own standard, which is described as the technical file route.

**4.3.6** The primary function of CE marking is to protect against barriers to trade within the European Union. It is not meant to be taken as a mark of quality.