



May 2015

### FISAT – Rope Access made in Germany

Since 20 years, work and efforts of FISAT, German Association for Rope Access, influence the development of the access method in Germany significantly. Germany's technical guideline for work safety 2121 part 3 (Technische Regel für Betriebssicherheit 2121-3) which is substantiating the legal ordinance for occupational safety (German Betriebssicherheitsverordnung) and consequently Directive 2009/104/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, is based on FISAT's Safety and Working Guidelines for Rope Access. It is highly questionable if this technical guideline, which is finally facilitating the legal use of rope access in Germany, would exist in this form without the commitment of FISAT. It can be assumed that acceptance of rope access would not be on the level at which it is currently located in Germany without the association.

### The myth of international recognition

Around the globe, there is no requirement existing that the qualification of a particular certification system is obligatory to perform rope access. As such a claim does not exist in any national legislation, it has to be clarified who is finally responsible for the recognition of a certificate. The frequently quoted "international recognition" is normally obtained through legal regulation or legislation and this is not the case in connection with rope access. Consequently it will always be the contractor or employer making the final decision. It is his responsibility that personnel and principles of operation are adequate and in conformity with national rules and regulations. To infer the legal legitimacy from the international level of familiarity is wrong.

Operational procedures and techniques of FISAT member companies and FISAT certified rope access technicians are in compliance with German and thus European rules and regulations. It would be an offence against European law if national authorities prohibit operations of FISAT certified personnel if they are in compliance with European and eventually higher national safety standards.

As all established rope access associations worldwide demand a similar and extraordinary high level of safety it can be assumed that existing German and European guidelines are also reflecting the international best available technology.

What are the pros for the use of FISAT certified personnel?

- Compliance with applicable German and European law
- Compliance with ISO Standards 22846-1 and 22846-2 (Rope Access Systems)
- Written code of best practice (Safety and Working Guidelines for Rope Access)
- Written examination guidelines
- 3 level certification system
- Independent assessment

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#### FACH- UND INTERESSENVERBAND FÜR SEILUNTERSTÜTZTE ARBEITSTECHNIKEN e.V.

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## FISAT – DAS GÜTESIEGEL FÜR HÖHENZUGANG

- One year validity of ID cards and therefor demonstrable compliance with the obligation for annual training as per §12 / German Working Environment Act
- 24/7 online validity check of all FISAT ID cards
- Use of certified, approved and operationally reliable equipment for training, refresher courses and assessments

Above listed points are confirmed by a declaration that was signed by all founding members of the European Committee for Rope Access (ECRA) in 2012. This declaration defines minimum standards for operation, training and assessment of rope access techniques in 14 points. Any established rope access association or certification system in the world fulfills those points. ECRA was founded by the associations ANETVA (Spain), FISAT (Germany), SFETH/DPMC (France) and SOFT (Norway) and represents more than 12.000 technicians worldwide.

The exemplary list of buildings and projects proves that FISAT certified rope access technicians are operating safely since 20 years, not only in Germany, but worldwide:

- Storebelt Bridge / Denmark
- Music Centre Gateshead / Newcastle, England
- Tate Gallery of Modern Art / London, England
- Olympic Stadium / London, England
- Power plant Olkiluoto / Eurajoki, Finland
- Ballymun Civic Centre / Dublin, Ireland
- Musée d'Art / Luxembourg
- Riesenrad Wiener Prater / Wien, Austria
- Uddevalla Bridge / Sweden
- Cobocenter / Detroit, USA
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial / South Dakota, USA
- Offshore Loader / Santiago de Chile, Chile
- Agadir Stadium / Agadir, Morocco
- Velodrom / Abuja, Nigeria
- Moses Mabhida Stadium / Durban, South Africa
- Kap Shui Mun Bridge / Hong Kong
- Shenzen Bridge / China
- Jeddah Airport / Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- National TV Studios / Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- Wind-parks on- and offshore in Australia, Europa the US

FISAT e.V. – HALLMARK OF SAFE ROPE ACCESS

Please visit [www.fisat.de](http://www.fisat.de) and [www.ecra.biz](http://www.ecra.biz) for further information.