



Public Statement from the International Tree Climbing Championship Committees

RE: Approval of Fall Protection Equipment and Techniques for ISA Affiliated Tree Climbing Competitions

As part of our continued service to the ISA, its Chapters, and the tree care industry, the ITCC Operations, Rules and Technical Advisory Committees remind all concerned about the process for the approval of fall protection equipment and techniques requested to be used in ISA affiliated tree climbing competitions worldwide.

Our intent is to continue to foster and encourage innovation in professional tree climbing. However, we are keenly aware that our decisions increasingly carry with them a degree of respect and authority often making their way from the ITCC event directly onto the work site. Many would say, "if allowed at the ITCC then surely it must be ok to use at work". With this level of responsibility, we must carefully consider any fall protection component, assembly, system, or technique proposed for use at ISA affiliated tree climbing competitions.

There is an online submission process in place which allows for competitors and officials to request a review and approval of equipment or techniques in competition. When data is not accessible or provided to the ITCC committees or officials, then testing may be required. The ITCC committees must be assured that any proposed fall protection equipment or technique meets acceptable performance criteria, is suited to the environment proposed, and is in line with current tree care industry best practices before allowing it to be used in competition. Therefore, it may take time to gather suitable and sufficient data in order to assess a request for the use of any proposed equipment or techniques for competition.

The ITCC committees closely monitor the evolution of tree care industry practices and innovations. We embrace progress and positive development. In parallel, we apply diligent consideration to the proposal of any work at height fall protection equipment and techniques. To do otherwise, would be irresponsible.

The ITCC Committees appreciate your support of the review process.

To submit questions and request approval regarding equipment and technique go to <http://itcc.isa-arbor.com/rules-scoring/EquipmentTechnique.aspx>.

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