



(Revision March 3, 2012)

Statement Regarding Requests for Approval of the Rope Wrench and other Innovations February 23, 2012

ISA and the ITCC Committees appreciate feedback which is why the competition and the industry have grown over the years. Managing feedback in a productive and cooperative manner can sometimes be a challenge when people are passionate about their work. For that reason the ITCC has developed processes to facilitate this exchange and embrace differing viewpoints. These processes include online submissions for rules changes and suggestions as well as questions pertaining to equipment and techniques. Following these processes, ensures a more timely and relevant response from the ITCC committees.

ITCC committee volunteers have a responsibility to make decisions based on what is best for not only ISA and its members but the industry as a whole. To do this they must work to verify all equipment and systems used in competitions adhere to industry standards. Therefore, approving the use of new gear and techniques can only be done when it is clear to the committee that it meets these standards.

Regarding requests for allowing the Rope Wrench in competition, guidelines and instructions have been provided numerous times to the manufacturer and it is the understanding of the committee that the manufacturer is working on gathering the necessary research and documentation. Climber and volunteer safety is the first concern of ISA and the ITCC committees. To allow underserved pressure, without facts, to guide the decision making process would be irresponsible if not negligent. With proper research and education, the committee will be better able to evaluate any proposed innovations including the Rope Wrench.

In the meantime, the ITCC Technical Advisory committee is striving to create a framework to ensure continued consistent, transparent assessment of equipment and techniques to be used in the ITCC via established Performance Criteria. There will be industry review sessions scheduled offering the opportunity to give feedback and input into this document. The first such events will be scheduled for this year's ITCC and ETCC.

Any further feedback that is not generated in a cooperative manner may not be heard and is best served by utilizing the proper channels for communicating with ISA and the ITCC committees.

Rules changes and suggestions: <http://www.itcc-isa.com/rules-scoring/RuleChangeForm.aspx>

Equipment and Technique questions: <http://www.itcc-isa.com/rules-scoring/EquipmentTechnique.aspx>

Arborist News Article regarding SRT for Work Positioning: http://itcc.isa-arbor.com/rules-scoring/resources/SRT_ITCCCommittee_ArbNews_10.11.pdf

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