



International Society of Arboriculture

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Use of ISC's Rope Wrench in European Competitions

The ISA Rules committee works hard to ensure the ITCC Rule Book promotes industry best practices. One of the key elements is laid out in section 2.2.1:

All equipment used shall be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard, unless otherwise specified in this document, and shall reflect industry best practices. Equipment shall be considered appropriate for use in tree climbing. If equipment is not clearly labelled to provide an industry standard mark, it is the user's responsibility to provide written evidence in English to be retained by the Head Judge, that the equipment is manufactured to meet the accepted industry standard for that piece of equipment and its application.

For countries within the European Union and EEC, this rule cannot apply exactly as written. All equipment shall meet the European PPE Directive 89/686/EEC regulation (EU) 2016/425. The directive stipulates the necessity for equipment to bear certification markings (CE mark) and relevant test criteria.

The first-generation Rope Wrench does not carry a CE mark and, as such, is illegal to sell within the European Union and EEC. ISC has formally stated that it will no longer sell this device in Europe.

ISC has addressed this issue by testing and certifying a modified device consisting of the original Rope Wrench with a factory-fitted tether. After modification by the factory, ISC has now gained the CE mark necessary for sale and use of the device in Europe.

With this information in mind and in line with both the ITCC Rule Book and the European PPE directive, ISA will accept only the new CE certified Rope Wrench (with proper markings on the equipment) in European climbing competitions, effective immediately.

To learn more about the PPE Directive, visit:

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/legislation/directives/34>