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Exponent Ropes Course Technician Certificate Standards Version 2023

This document specifies the competences required to qualify for the Exponent *Ropes Course Technician* Certificate.

Exponent *Ropes Course Technician* Certification verifies the competences required for **Level 1, 2 & 3 Supervision** as defined by EN 15567-2, sections 3.5, 3.6 & 3.7, and the duties of an **Instructor**, as defined by EN 15567-2, section 3.1.

Exponent hands a ***Ropes Course Technician* certificate** to individuals who demonstrated the technical skills and safety attitude required to *autonomously* conduct activities on low and high ropes course elements, under the condition that a *Ropes Course Rescuer* is available for performing high element rope evacuations whenever needed.

The Exponent *Ropes Course Technician* certificate is valid for **specified types of elements**, including low elements and two or more of the following high element categories:

1. Climbs: elements such as the Giant Ladder, Vertical Labyrinth, the Pamper Pole or a Climbing Wall, with top-rope belay.
2. Traverses: elements such as the Balance Beam or the Burma Bridge, with top-rope or self-belay across the element.
3. Drops: elements such as the Pamper Pole, Giant Swing or Zipline, requiring a specific set-up and involving a top-rope or self-belay to catch an initial fall.
4. Special elements: elements such as the rappel, requiring a specific set-up and belay.

Exponent hands **site-specific and multi-course certificates**. The former are valid on one specific ropes course only. The latter are valid for the specified types of elements and belay systems on any ropes course built according to the EN 15567-1

The Exponent *Ropes Course Technician* certificate is granted upon demonstration of the required competences in a test that consists of the following three parts:

1. Written test:

Structured and up-to-date knowledge of the following subjects as applicable to the types of elements and the sites specified:

- Course inspection: course conditions and pre-flight checks;
- Belay methods and supervision: spotting, top-rope, self-belay and continuous belay as applicable to the ropes course(s) specified; fall factor, climbing commands, buddy system, pre-climb checks;
- Knots: use and recognition of Figure-8 and variations, Clove Hitch, Double Fishermans, Munter Hitch and locks, Stoppers Knot;
- Personal and collective equipment: use, equipment care and equipment routine visual checks for harnesses, karabiners, helmets, descenders, belay devices, ropes, webbing / slings, lifelines;
- Low elements: inspection, safety instruction and belay methods for elements such as the Spiders Web, Mohawk Walk, as applicable;
- High elements: inspection, safety instruction and belay methods for the types of high elements covered by the certificate (climbs, traverses, drops, specials)
- Rescues: rescue equipment, methods for self-rescue (on self-belay).

Awareness of European Standards EN 15567-1 and EN 15567-2 re ropes course construction and operation and understanding of implications for own practice as a *Ropes Course Technician*.

DEMONSTRATING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE ON ALL SUBJECTS IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THE *ROPES COURSE TECHNICIAN* CERTIFICATE.

1. Knots test:

Ability to correctly tie the following knots in different situations and under time pressure (30" to 45"):

- Figure-8 and variations
- Clove Hitch
- Double Fishermans
- Munter Hitch and locks
- Mule Knot
- Stoppers Knot
- Prusik or equivalent

Ability to correctly identify the above knots and recognise whether or not they are tied correctly.

PASSING THIS TEST COMPONENT IS REQUIRED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS.

2. Practical exam

Ability to perform and provide a rationale for:

- Setting up specified types of high elements:
 - 'Routine visual checks' ('pre-flight checks')
 - Replacing p-cords by belay ropes and vice versa
 - Performing small repairs
- Ensuring adequate self-belay and / or partner belay as applicable, including appropriate instruction and supervision (levels 1,2 and 3)
 - Spotting
 - Setting up belay system and tying in climbers and belayers
 - Performing visual and hands-on checks
 - Using and enforcing the use of climbing commands
 - Belaying by means of a Munter Hitch and approved (self-locking) belay devices
- Accessing and crossing high elements with self-belay:
 - Use of lifelines
 - Use of different types of anchors
 - Rappel / Abseil, including self-arrest locks
 - Use of Prusik or equivalent for self-belay and ascending on rope
- Clearing the course and storing equipment
 - Coiling ropes
 - Inspecting gear
 - Filling out logs and reporting incidents

PASSING THE ABOVE PRACTICAL TEST COMPONENTS IS REQUIRED TO TAKE THE FURTHER TEST.

- Evaluating the urgency in problem situations with helpless participants and/or colleagues on a high element:
 - Check and assemble a rescue kit
 - Assessing problem situations and intervening with appropriate safety and urgency

PASSING THE ABOVE TEST COMPONENTS IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THE *ROPES COURSE TECHNICIAN* CERTIFICATE.

Exponent certification is not based on a weighed sum of the above components but on a general evaluation of the required skills, attitude and knowledge to safely conduct activities on the specified elements and/or ropes courses without supervision.

The Exponent *Ropes Course Technician* certificate is valid for 2 years.