

Thank you for your enquiry with regards to our IRATA Rope Access Training.

We have included a brief outline of what Rope Access is, who IRATA are and what is required to complete the training course, as well as some information of the industries that use rope access.

Course Aims and Objectives

The Level 1 course introduces new operatives to the basic techniques of Industrial Rope Access in accordance with the IRATA Training, Assessment & Certification Scheme and International Code of Practice. In addition, as the candidates progress through the levels, 2 and 3, we train in advanced methods of access and rescue. The courses are designed not just to pass the assessment but also to prepare the candidates for employment within the rope access industry.

What is Rope Access?

Industrial rope access started to evolve in the late seventies/early eighties and owes many of its techniques and equipment to caving and pot holing. Caving and pot holing rely on the single rope techniques, whereas industrial rope access relies on a twin rope technique. This is a much safer way to work as you always have a back-up rope should your working rope fail.

Rope Access has and continues to grow as a major technique for Working at Height, due to the cost effectiveness and high safety record. The IRATA safety record is unmatched by any other means of working at height.

The rope access industry is continuing to expand worldwide, in all sectors. The qualifications under the IRATA certification scheme are the only ones accepted internationally.

Construction Industry

The UK construction industry is very varied and the types of work you could be undertaking are vast. The work tends to be less specialized as in the offshore industry and as such is less trade skill orientated.

Geotechnical

You will have seen large expanses of mesh hung down the sides of railway and motorway embankments. These will, more than likely, have been installed using rope access methods. For many years into the future the cliffs of Gibraltar will continue to be systematically stabilized using some of the most complex suspended drilling systems ever deployed. The work is hard and during the summer months the long hours can take its toll on the unfit. The work, however, is some of the most satisfying. Many recent projects have been upwards of 12 months duration.

Building Maintenance & Window Cleaning

Windows will always need cleaning & buildings always need maintained whether the task is small or large rope access can be suitable. Therefore, there are an ever-increasing number of companies providing local services.

Offshore

There is currently an unprecedented amount of maintenance work being carried out on our aging fleet of offshore oil and gas installations. In order to gain employment in the offshore industry as a rope access technician, you may need to specialize in a particular field.

There is a reasonable amount of work for rope access electricians with suitable Ex. Electrical qualifications.

There is a constant requirement for offshore oil and gas installations to have a suitable and sufficient protective coating and to this end the North Sea summer months see rope access teams blasting and spraying the installation jackets from top to water.

Many of the large decommissioning projects currently underway require large scale lifting operations to be carried out by rope access teams.

Non Destructive Testing (NDT) is the most popular field for industrial rope access. It allows suitably qualified technicians to carry out essential thickness gauging of steel plate and pipe. It allows detailed examinations of welds by way of a number of different techniques.

Industrial Rope Access Trade Association (IRATA)

In 1987 the Industrial Rope Access Trade Association (IRATA) was formed as a result of an initiative by a number of leading companies involved in industrial rope access. Safety is paramount in our industry. Since its formation IRATA International, as it is now known, and its member companies, have worked assiduously to improve safety in the industry. The Association's main aim is to promote the development of rope access techniques, and to ensure its members work in a safe and effective manner.

As part of this development, the system of grading operatives was set up. This requires operatives to undergo independent assessment in order to attain one of three levels of qualification. These qualifications must be renewed every three years, thus ensuring an up to date standard of quality.

The other major part of IRATA's development was to produce a range of comprehensive documents, the principal ones being:

- IRATA 'Guidelines' on the use of rope access methods for industrial purpose. This has now been upgraded to 'International Code of Practice' and is recognised as the industry standard reference by the Health and Safety Executive.
- IRATA 'General requirements' for certification of personnel engaged in industrial rope access methods. This has been revised and is now 'Training, assessment & certification scheme' (TACS) which became live as of the 1st of August 2014.

The association is now regarded as the leading body for matters relative to industrial rope access both in the UK and worldwide.

The acceptance of industrial rope access as a safe method of working has been mirrored by The UK Health and Safety Executive production of;

- BS 7985: Code of Practice for the Use of Rope Access for Industrial Purposes.

This standard is based upon the original IRATA Guidelines and formed the basis of the IRATA International Code of Practice (ICOP) which came into effect on the 1st January 2010.

More information can be found at; www.irata.org

IRATA Technician Levels

Within the IRATA system there are 3 working levels;

Level 1; is defined as a technician who is able to perform a specified range of rope access tasks under the supervision of a level 3.

Level 2; is defined as an experienced technician who is able to perform more complex tasks; rigging working lines, undertaking rescues & performing other rope access tasks under the supervision of a level 3.

Level 3; is defined as an experienced rope access technician who is responsible for understanding and implementing the rope access procedures, method statements and associated risk assessments, and:

- a) is able to demonstrate the skills and knowledge required of Levels 1 and 2;
- b) understands the elements and principles of IRATA International's safe system of work;
- c) is conversant with relevant work techniques and legislation;
- d) has an extensive knowledge of advanced rope access rigging and rescue techniques;
- e) holds an appropriate and current first-aid certificate. (not required for training)

The requirements to progress up the levels are outlined in the training scheme flowchart.

Pre-course Requirements

The minimum age of candidates is 18 years.

All candidates shall be physically fit and free from any disability or medical condition that may prevent them from working safely. They shall ensure that they have an adequate level of fitness, are physically able to perform the tasks expected in terms of strength, agility and coordination, are able to withstand the stresses of the working environment, such as heat, cold and other inclement weather.

This course is not a walk in the park; it is a physically and mentally demanding course and will not suit everyone. Ideally, candidates should be in possession of an applicable full industrial medical certificate, though this is not a requirement.

As a minimum, all candidates will be required to fill in the IRATA 'Candidate Disclaimer & Liability Release' form to show that they are historically free of the conditions listed below and, therefore, there is no reason that would exclude you from participation in a working at height course/assessment.

Principal contra-indications to working at height include the following:

- Prescribed medication that may impair physical/mental function
- Alcohol or drug dependence
- Diabetes, high or low blood sugar
- High or low blood pressure
- Epilepsy, fits, blackouts
- Heart disease / chest pain
- Vertigo, Giddiness or difficulty with balance
- Fear of heights
- Impaired limb function
- Musculoskeletal issues e.g. back pain
- Psychiatric illness
- Sensory impairment e.g. blind, deaf

If you feel that there may be something that you are uncertain about then please contact us. Not to acknowledge a medical problem could put yourself and others at risk, so if there is a problem we need to know.

Level 1

The minimum age of candidates is 18 years.

No previous experience of working at height is required, though an aptitude for working at height is.

Requires a 4-day intensive training course and assessment on the 5th day; carried out by an independent IRATA qualified assessor.

The course will instruct candidates to ensure they understand and can apply basic rope access skills, appropriate to work as part of a team under the instruction of a rope access supervisor.

The training course includes ascending and descending techniques, knots, equipment appreciation and simple rescue techniques. The training does not include the use of any tools or work skills

Full syllabus is in the 'Training, Assessment & Certification Scheme'

Level 2

An existing in date level 1 has to have accrued at least 1000 logged hours on rope and have been working in rope access in a wide variety of situations for at least 12 months.

They should be proficient in all Level 1 theoretical and practical requirements.

They are required to undergo a 4-day training course before assessment on the 5th day; carried out by an independent IRATA qualified assessor.

Logbook will be required with all hours signed by the appropriate Level 3 or company supervisor. Failure to provide this will result in exclusion from assessment.

Full syllabus is in the 'Training, Assessment & Certification Scheme'

Level 3 (supervisor)

An existing in date level 2 has to have at least a further 12 months broad experience in rope access work, with an additional 1000 logged hours on ropes.

They should be proficient in all Level 1 and Level 2 theoretical and practical requirements.

The candidate must be competent in advanced rescue techniques and have a comprehensive knowledge of the appropriate work techniques and legislation.

They are required to have a further 4 days training before assessment on the 5th day; carried out by an independent IRATA qualified assessor.

Logbook will be required with all hours signed by the appropriate Level 3 or company supervisor. Failure to provide this will result in exclusion from assessment.

Full syllabus is in the 'Training, Assessment & Certification Scheme'

N.B. a valid first aid certificate is required to work as a level 3, but not required to undertake the training course or assessment.

General

All IRATA levels are valid for three years.

Re-assessment shall be completed before current certification expires. This means that certification must be valid on the day of assessment. There is no 'grace period'.

All revalidating or upgrading technicians (this also includes previously qualified individuals regardless of time or the fact they may have not worked on the ropes) will **have to produce a logbook on the Monday morning or be excluded from the training course.**

If re-training and successful assessment, at a technician's current level, are completed in the 6-month period prior to the expiry of a current certificate, a new certificate will be issued with an expiry date 3 years from the date of expiry on the previous certificate.

Expired Certification

Candidates cannot up-grade after the expiry of the current certification. Re-assessment at their current level is possible:

- Level 1; Candidates can be re-assessed at level one, following 4 days training, any length of time after expiry.
- Level 2 or 3; Candidates undertaking re-assessment up to 6 months after the expiry of the current certification, can be assessed after 4 days training.
- Level 2 or 3 candidates expired between 6 – 24 months; will require doing a 1-day appraisal demonstrating a good standard of competence appropriate to their level, before completing a 4 day training course and 1 day assessment.
- Level 2 or 3 candidates expired in excess of 24 months; will require reverting to a lower level, for a reduced period and accrue additional working hours on the ropes before revalidating.

Appeals

Appeals or complaints can be made through the IRATA website (irata.org/page/make-a-complaint) or in writing to

IRATA International, First Floor, Unit 3, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8XW, UK.

Refresher Training

Any rope access technician that has not worked for a period of six months or more is required to undergo refresher training. We offer a one-day evaluation course appropriate to the level required.

Course Time Scale

Monday to Thursday; 09:00hrs – 17:00hrs Friday; 09:00hrs – completion of assessment.

N.B. In the unlikely event that an assessor cannot be booked for Friday the assessment will be done on a Saturday, at no extra cost. You will be informed of this on day one of the course.

Prices

All prices include refreshments, a light lunch and IRATA registration (Logbook level I only).

First Assessments

- IRATA Level 1: 4 Days training + 1 Days assessment - £685 + VAT
- IRATA Level 2: 4 Days training + 1 Days assessment - £685 + VAT
- IRATA Level 3: 4 Days training + 1 Days assessment - £685 + VAT

Re-assessments;

- All Levels: 4 Days training + 1 Days assessment - £685 + VAT

Six Month Refresher;

- All Levels: One Day Training and Verification - £125 + VAT

We will provide you with:

- all necessary rope access equipment,
- a comprehensive training manual,
- IRATA International Code of Practice
- IRATA Training, assessment & certification scheme (TACS)
- Relevant HSE documents
- IRATA registration, certification and ID card.
- New level 1 candidates will also receive an IRATA Logbook

For more details on course availability and booking please contact us on; 0845 474 5562 or

Go to our web site www.hakiaccess.com

We hope to see you in the near future.

All the best

Malcolm Sinclair

Training Manager

Haki Access Solutions Limited

Clashburn Close
Kinross Business Park
Kinross
KY13 8GF