



THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAINEERING AND CLIMBING FEDERATION
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

UIAA SAFETY LABEL MANAGEMENT: ONLINE SYSTEM

1. How do I become a UIAA certified Safety Label Holder (SLH)?

Go on the web page http://theuiaa.org/act_risk_management.html and follow the online procedure

- 1) Read the Safety Label Regulations
- 2) Click on "New User". Fill in the application form as per the instructions and upload the requested documents (Signed copy of agreement and Quality certification as per UIAA regulations, if any).
- 3) When the application is accepted, the UIAA will send a welcome letter with necessary documents along with the invoice. You can choose to be invoiced just for membership, in which case you apply for UIAA Safety Labels at a later date OR be invoiced for UIAA Safety Labels along with the annual membership fee invoice (as per Regulations).
- 4) When the invoice is paid, the Safety Label Administrator will send a password and username to allow the applicant to update their account and apply for UIAA Safety Labels. If it is a combined invoice for membership and UIAA Safety Labels, a password and username will be sent once the membership application as Safety Label Holder is accepted.

Note: *Since the implementation of the online management system in 2009, the UIAA has stopped accepting applications for Safety Label through conventional mail.*

2. What are the benefits of being a UIAA Safety Label Holder (SLH)?

- 1) Usage of the UIAA Safety Label Trademark on your certified products;
- 2) Promote your company as a producer of high standard mountaineering and climbing materials throughout the world.

- 3) Display of your company logo as a Safety Label Holder on the UIAA website.
- 4) Participation in the plenary meetings of the Safety Commission with voting rights as per Regulations.

3. What does the online Safety Label certification management tool offer?

The Safety Label online management tool is the quickest and most efficient way to:

- 1) Update your own profile change of address, contact names, quality certificates.
- 2) Apply for new Safety Labels, renew or terminate existing labels or make extensions.
- 3) Follow the status of ones' label – application, active, suspended, cancelled
- 4) Contact the Safety Label Administrator through messaging system.

4. Can I become a member without applying for labels?

Yes. A manufacturer who decides not to apply for labels may become a Safety Label Observer at an annual fee of 500 EUROS. This gives the observer the right to participate in the Safety Commission plenary meetings and restricted access to meeting documents. The observer has no voting rights in the decisions of the commissions.

5. Within what time is a new UIAA Safety Label certificate issued?

Upon receipt of the completed application, an invoice is issued within 15 working days. After receipt of payment the certificate is delivered within 5 working days. With express delivery, the certificate can be issued within 3-5 working days. Express delivery attracts an additional cost, refer UIAA Safety Label regulations.

6. What are the steps to cancel my UIAA Safety Label certification?

The SLH can terminate/cancel his safety label from his online account. Also at the same time, a notification should be sent to the Safety Label Administrator. Note that any cancellation made after *1st November* of current year will still require payment of the annual label fee for the following year. Refer UIAA Safety Label regulations.

7. What is an extension of UIAA Safety Label? As Safety Label Holder how can I extend my certification?

A process where a UIAA Safety Label certification is extended to a product that bears a different commercial name than the original product but is the same in

ALL aspects as the original product or different in some aspects that DO NOT affect the performance of the product (for example – color for ropes).

Note: The owner of an extension cannot be considered as a Safety Certification Holder until it has the test report in its name.

Parties in Extension:

There are two (2) parties involved in an extension –

1. The Extender - existing UIAA Safety Label Holder for that product who wants to make an extension.
2. The Beneficiary - recipient of the extension by the Extender

The Extender and Beneficiary can be either different or same depending on the scenario. Read the UIAA regulations for more details.

EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

8. What are UIAA standards?

The UIAA standards were generated by the hard work of the UIAA Safety Commission, the Safety Label Holders and Test Laboratories working collaboratively for several years. The UIAA Standards are the first and only world-wide recognized standards for mountaineering and climbing equipment. The current EN standards are based on the original UIAA standards.

9. What are EN standards?

The European Union is continually developing harmonized standards known as European Norm (EN) standards. These EN standards are issued by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) or jointly by CEN and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC). Each EN standard clearly outlines the criteria for meeting essential requirements.

In 1995 the original UIAA Standards were adopted by CEN with formal modifications. Due to European laws, CEN became the holder of trademark on those texts. However, the UIAA is; and will continue to be a major source of technical advice to the CEN. The most recent example being the Standard on Braking Devices (2009) produced by the UIAA in 2008 and now adopted by CEN with minor changes.

10. Why does UIAA have extra requirements on standards?

Certain UIAA standards have additional tests over and above the EN standards. The UIAA tries to review the study of accidents every year to determine those that may require immediate attention and result in changes to standards or the drafting of a new one. In all cases, UIAA reserves the right to decide on implementation of such changes.

11. How are the extra UIAA requirements to be fulfilled?

When applying for a new Safety label, the SLH should:

1. Check the UIAA standards to see if there are extra/special requirements for the product. Details located at this link -

http://www.theuiaa.org/safety_standards.php

2. Ask for a test report, if there are specific UIAA requirements there are two possibilities:

a) the SLH ask a test report from a UIAA approved laboratory. In the report it should be mentioned that the UIAA requirements are fulfilled.

b) the SLH ask a test report in a EC Notified body but has to ask for the extra requirements in an UIAA approved Laboratory; two test reports are to be sent to UIAA

12. I am a manufacturer not selling in Europe. Why do I still have to purchase both EN and UIAA Standards to get a UIAA Safety Label certification?

The UIAA collaborates with the CEN to share information across a common knowledge pool of members and leaders. Compliance with EN standards is the law for EU states, while evolution of new UIAA standards or change to existing ones is dynamic and implemented depending on urgency. Therefore both UIAA and EN standards compliment each other and need to be cross-referenced.

13. Where can I search for latest UIAA Standards?

The latest UIAA Standards can be accessed from

- http://www.theuiaa.org/safety_standards.php

QUALITY CERTIFICATION

14. What are the quality certifications that UIAA recognizes?

Currently, UIAA recognizes only CE certifications for quality - 11A and 11B of the European directive 89/686/EEC. Certification 11A is a quality control system for

final product while Certificate 11B is a system for ensuring quality of production process. The UIAA is open to suggestions for including other types of quality certifications.

15. Why does UIAA only accept CE quality certifications and not others?

As of 2009, UIAA accepts only CE quality certifications to ensure quality as set out in the EU directive. However, UIAA is open to recognize quality certifications in the future (such as ISO) that meet its objective of high credibility.

16. I am a certified organization for quality as per UIAA requirements (CE 11A or 11B), what are the benefits available to me?

These benefits are outlined in detail in section 3.7 of the UIAA Safety Label regulations document; please click on the following link to read them:

http://safety.theuiaa.org/front/files/UIAA%20Safety%20Label%20Regulations%20Jan%202009_v31.pdf

17. What is a directive? What is the definition for PPE and why is required?

The European Union (EU), formerly known as the European Community (EC), has replaced individual national regulations of member countries with a series of Directives. These Directives oblige members to introduce them into their existing laws. Only when all applicable Directives have been verified for a product, can that product can be legally placed on the EU countries' market.

Directive 89/686/EEC deals with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which provides for +C16 the directive "safeguarding of public health, improving safety at work and ensuring user protection."

18. What is CE mark and how is it different from EC?

The letters "CE" are the abbreviation of French phrase "Conformité Européenne" which literally means "European Conformity". In the beginning the term used was "EC Mark"; however, that has been officially replaced by "CE Marking".

CE Marking on a product is a manufacturer's declaration that the product complies with the essential requirements of the relevant European health, safety and environmental protection legislation, as set out in CE's Product Directives.

19. What are notified bodies by Committee for Standardization (CEN) and please provide a list of them?

A Notified Body is an organization that has been nominated by a member Government and Notified by the European Commission. A Notified Body will be nominated based on designated requirements, such as knowledge, experience, independence and resources to conduct the conformity assessments.

The primary role of a Notified Body is to provide services for conformity assessment on the conditions set out in support of CE marking. This normally means assessing the manufacturers conformity to the essential requirements listed in respective directive. Conformity assessment can be inspection, quality assurance, type examination or design examination, or a combination of these.

A list of notified bodies can be viewed here –

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=directive.notifiedbody&dir_id=6&type_dir=NO%20CPD&pro_id=99999&prc_id=99999&ann_id=99999&prc_anx=99999

20. What is an EC-type examination report?

An EC-type report can only be issued by a notified body in accordance with the respective directive (here 89/686/EEC PPE). A notified body may usually have on-site or off-site testing facilities to ascertain such quality.

MISUSE AND APPEALS

21. What is the protocol for misuse of the UIAA Safety Label?

Details on the misuse protocol as found in the UIAA Safety Label Regulations (section 3.5), can be found at the following link:

http://safety.theuiaa.org/front/files/UIAA%20Safety%20Label%20Regulations%20Jan%202009_v31.pdf

22. How does the appeal process work?

Details on the appeal process for UIAA Safety Label Regulations (section 4.1) can be found at the following link:

http://safety.theuiaa.org/front/files/UIAA%20Safety%20Label%20Regulations%20Jan%202009_v31.pdf

23. How does the UIAA protect my information?

All information is regulated according to the UIAA disclaimer. We urge you to read it carefully and save it for future reference.

UIAA ACCREDITED LABORATORIES

24. Which are the UIAA certified test labs?

All UIAA approved and certified laboratories are listed in the UIAA Safety Label Regulations (Annex A2)

25. How can a laboratory become UIAA certified?

To become a certified UIAA laboratory the following steps must be followed:

- 1) Contact the UIAA office (office@uiaa.ch) to arrange a date for a UIAA visit to the applicant's laboratory.
- 2) Submit payment for the accreditation costs.
- 3) Arrange for a visit to the laboratory facility.
- 4) Conduct, if requested by Safety Commission, comparison tests with other UIAA approved laboratories.
- 5) Submit results of comparison test to the Safety Commission representative.
- 6) Provide payment of additional costs (travels expenses, comparison tests etc).
- 7) Receive the delivery of a UIAA certificate for new UIAA certified laboratory

MISCELLANEOUS

26. Who can I contact for any issues or clarification on a point?

Please contact the Safety Label administrator by email safetylabel@theuiaa.org

27. Does a brand have all its products certified by UIAA?

No. A brand can have some of its products with the UIAA label. The list of the labels by brand can be searched on the web page found at:

http://www.theuiaa.org/safety_labels_manufacturers.php

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