



Training Standards Working Group Spring 2011

Introduction:

This has been a very busy year for the Mountaineering Commission's Training Standards working Group, with a significant number of consultative and evaluative visits as well as considerable debate about the increased international interest in the Training Standards, with further development of a sustainable business plan. The MC meeting in Moscow, Russia in November 2010 ratified a series of proposals that have been outlined to the UIAA Executive Committee, allowing development to continue on 3 fronts:

1. Updating spread sheet of applications and approvals.

The recording system has been streamlined in order to form the basis of a purpose-built database requested from the UIAA Office. Ideally the database will be web-based, allowing for access by all members of the TSWG. This database should include automated responses for basic requests for information and prompt automated queries such as an annual request for the contact details for the training representative from each federation. This is part of a bigger project working to a clearly defined project timeline that has been issued by the office.

2. Advice, training and evaluation for applicant federations.

2010 was the busiest year to date for TS-related seminars and visits:

- a. Reports are available for the following training seminars:
 - Turkey rock instructors' Seminar (April 2010)
 - Japan lecture and seminar series (June 2010)
 - Russia rock climbing instructor training/assessment (June 2010 + winter 2011)
 - India: IMF and Petzl Foundation leader training camps (Sept 2010)
 - Lithuania: Training seminars at PyB National Centre (winter 2010)
- b. Evaluation visits for applicant federations:
 - CAAL club instructor training (May 2010)
 - FEEC site accreditation visit Mountain Walking (June 2010)
 - Serbia rock instructor's training camp (July 2010)
 - Norway trad rock climbing accreditation application (August 2010)

2011 continues this trend, with the following developments:

- c. On-going projects:
 - Croatia: evaluation visit by KM (report submitted online)
 - Lithuania: further training seminars at PyB National Centre (report requested)
 - Russia: winter training seminar by ENEQ (information pending)

- India: IMF have requested a UIAA presence at eader training (Petzl Foundation + Rimo notified)
 - Turkey: Progress suggestion sent, no reply as yet.
 - Request for further information from JWAF/JMA
- d. New enquiries:
- Request for assistance contacting UIAGM from South Africa (successful)Further interest from the British Joint Services, with an official request for assistance to gain the Alpine Standard
 - Regular correspondence from Malta
 - Renewed interest from New Zealand and Australia
 - Request to attend AGA from UIMLA

3. Sustainability of UIAA Training Standards.

The UIAA Training standards has continued to attract widespread and worldwide interest despite the relatively low-key profile to date. It is anticipated that this demand is likely to continue increasing, and various strategic and practical questions need to be answered in order to satisfy this demand. These were discussed at November's Mountaineering Commission meeting in Moscow and 3 working parties were formed to look at 3 specific areas of work: a business plan, forms and procedures and the political dimensions.

Business Plan Working Party

Following the November working group meetings a draft business plan has been drawn up and has been circulated for comments. This proposes a business solution by creating a Training Label, based on the successful Equipment Label, which is itself supported by Equipment Standards. There has been considerable interest in this document already from the UIAA Executive so I hope that we can make some decisions about how to proceed with this.

Processes and procedures Working Party

Following the November meeting this working party has liaised regularly with the office in Bern to clarify various issues. A timeline has been drawn up for surveying the member federations and building a database. The working party has produced a draft flowchart showing the accreditation process. A table of contents for the Training Label procedure document has been drawn up, using the Safety Label as a template, and SL contacted the Safety Commission to request further advice in completing this document.

Continued negotiations about UIAA affiliations and charges.

The decision by the General Assembly about whether or not to allow secondary federations and/or organisations to affiliate to the UIAA is crucial. A precedent approaching an agreement to allow secondary organisations was set by accepting the application from Zirve Mountaineering and Nature Sports Club at the Bormio General Assembly. This group has already contacted the TSWG, highlighting the need to complete the accreditation process for the Turkish Mountaineering Federation as soon as possible.

It should now be possible to at last resolve the question of whether or not to grant use of the UIAA logo to the AMGA (or AAC??) for the Single Pitch Instructor qualification, which was accredited in 2009. This would open the doors to dozens of organisations to affiliate within strict guidelines: for example you will see from my report that I feel that GDAE currently meets the standard for its multi-pitch trad climbing instructor scheme but only at its current scale of operation. If it grew beyond one club, evidence of a suitably expanded Quality Assurance system would be required.

Steve Long, President of TSWG. 27/3/11