

UIAA 128

Fifth Edition

November 2025

Effective from

November 2025

Energy Absorbing Systems for Use on Vie Ferrate (Klettersteig) Climbing and Mountaineering Equipment



International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

UIAA Safety Standard – 128 – Version 5.0

© 2025 UIAA

c/o Schweizer Alpen-Club SAC, Monbijoustrasse 61, Postfach, CH-3000 Bern 14, Switzerland
+41 31 370 18 28 • www.theuiaa.org • office@theuiaa.org

Table of Contents

Foreword	iii
Copyright and Version Management	iv
Normative References	v
1 General Remarks on the UIAA Trademark and UIAA Label	6
2 Requirements for Energy Absorbing Systems (EAS) for Use on Vie Ferrate (Klettersteig)	6
3 Demonstrating that the Requirements are met	6
4 Information to be Supplied	6
5 Attachment of the UIAA Safety Label	6
Revision History	8

Foreword

UIAA standards are the only ‘globally recognized’ standards for mountaineering equipment. In order to prevent multiplicity, the UIAA collaborates with its partner in standardization, CEN, and bases UIAA 128 on the European Standard EN 958:2024.

The EN standards are derived from the original UIAA standards, the first of their kind. The UIAA publishes user-friendly pictorials for each standard. UIAA 128 imposes requirements in addition to those of EN 958:2024. Owing to copyright restrictions, this UIAA Standard does not state the full requirements of EN 958:2024 to which it refers. Hence it is necessary to obtain a copy of EN 958:2024. The procedure for purchasing the EN Standards is included at the end of the text of this standard. The UIAA standards are reviewed at intervals to see whether they meet the latest technical requirements and revised if necessary.

The UIAA invites manufacturers of mountaineering and climbing equipment worldwide to become members of the UIAA Safety Commission as Safety Label Holders. Members can participate in discussions on standard requirements, test methods, and revisions thereof (see the “[Regulations for existing and potential Safety Label Holders](#)”).

A complete list of UIAA Standards for mountaineering and climbing equipment can be found on the UIAA website www.theuiaa.org/safety-standards/.

NOTE – Owing to copyright restrictions, this UIAA Standard does not reproduce the full requirements of the referenced standards. To ensure full compliance, those applying this standard must obtain official copies of these documents. They are available for purchase from the [CEN](#) website.

This standard has been created and updated based on scientific research coordinated and funded by UIAA, as a service to all mountaineers.

Copyright and Version Management

© 2017, 2018, 2021 & 2025

This document was first published in English. The English master text is decisive in any conflict of interpretation. For any validations in translation, the UIAA should be contacted via the UIAA Office in Bern, Switzerland.

UIAA declarations, standards, documents and guidelines are subject to review. Updates are recorded in the version history provided at the end of this document.

UIAA documents are generally produced by the responsible Commission and are subject to approval in accordance with the UIAA Articles of Association. All UIAA documents can be found on the relevant subject area on the UIAA website.

This publication may be reproduced by UIAA member federations in any form for non-profit or educational purposes, providing that the source is acknowledged. Other parties are requested to contact the UIAA office for permission.

No use of this publication may be made for resale or any other commercial purpose whatsoever without the prior permission in writing from the UIAA.

Copyright is secured for the present document including all its parts. Any use beyond the limit of the copyright act is forbidden. Copyright of photos and pictorials belong to the UIAA or according to specific credits mentioned.

The versioning is Vx.y, where:

- x Major revision of the document. Each change in requirement implies a main evolution.
- y Minor revision of the document. Editorial or non-technical updates.

For example, **V5.0** denotes the fifth major revision of the document.

Note that test reports comprising only the main issue, e.g., V5, are also accepted (instead of, e.g., V5.2) since the requirements are identical.

Normative References

The following documents are referenced in such a way that their content, in whole or in part, constitutes requirements of this standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition (including any amendments) applies.

EN 958:2024, *Mountaineering equipment - Energy absorbing systems for use in klettersteig (via ferrata) climbing - Safety requirements and test methods*

1 General Remarks on the UIAA Trademark and UIAA Label

1.1 The UIAA Trademark (see [Clause 5](#)) is copyright protected internationally. The UIAA Safety Label is only granted to items of mountaineering and climbing equipment upon approval of the prospective label holder's application by the UIAA.

1.2 The procedure to be followed by a manufacturer, when applying for a UIAA Safety Label, is laid down in the "[Regulations for existing and potential Safety Label Holders](#)" available at the [UIAA website](#).

2 Requirements for Energy Absorbing Systems (EAS) for Use on Vie Ferrate (Klettersteig)

2.1 The UIAA Label can only be granted for energy absorbing systems (EAS) which meet all the requirements of EN 958:2024, with the following exception:

2.1.1 Dynamic performance

The requirement of EN 958:2024, paragraph 4.2.3 a), dynamic test 1 and Table 1 is modified as follows. When tested in accordance with EN 958:2024, paragraph 5.2.4.3, with a rigid steel mass of 40 kg the maximum impact force shall not exceed 3.5 kN (instead of 4 kN as per EN) and the maximum braking length shall not exceed 2 200 mm.

2.1.2 No EN number required.

3 Demonstrating that the Requirements are met

The requirements of section 5 in EN 958:2024 (Tests) shall be satisfied by a test report from a UIAA accredited test laboratory.

4 Information to be Supplied

The "information to be supplied" shall be given in standard English and, if required, in the official language(s) of the country in which the product is made available on the market. As an alternative to a printed form, the information may be provided via an electronic or other data storage format link (e.g., a QR code) allowing the downloading of the information. The information link shall be preceded or surmounted by an icon showing an open booklet; the information link and icon may be directly printed on the product in a clearly visible and accessible place.

5 Attachment of the UIAA Safety Label

5.1 Safety Label Marking

For any model of mountaineering equipment, which has been granted the UIAA Safety Label, the UIAA Trademark (see [Figure 1](#)) or the four letters "UIAA" shall be marked clearly and indelibly on each item sold in accordance with the branding guidelines specified in the "[Regulations for existing and potential Safety Label Holders](#)".



Figure 1: UIAA Trademark or the four letters "UIAA" word mark.

5.2 Other

In addition, the UIAA Trademark or the four letters "UIAA" may be included in the instructions for use and/or on a swing ticket as well as in catalogs and other publications of the manufacturer. In the last case, the illustration and/or the text shall clearly apply only to the equipment which has been granted the UIAA Safety Label.

Revision History

V5.0 — November 2025

A new subsection 2.1.1 was added (maximum impact force shall not exceed 3.5 kN, instead of 4 kN).

V4.0 — July 2025

Updated to match the latest EN 958 standard published in 2024.

V3 — February 2018

Update to font and style

V2 — July 2017

Updated to match the latest EN 958 standard published in 2017.

V1 — June 2017

Clause 4: Information to be supplied (in accordance with EN 958:2017) shall be given in English, or at least in the language of the country in which the product is sold.

Has been updated with: The "information to be supplied" shall be given in standard English and, if required, in the official language(s) of the country in which the product is made available on the market. As an alternative to a printed form, the information may be provided via an electronic or other data storage format link (e.g. a QR code) allowing the downloading of the information. The information link shall be preceded or surmounted by an icon showing an open booklet; the information link and icon may be directly printed on the product in a clearly visible and accessible place. Unanimously approved Safecom Worden June 2017.