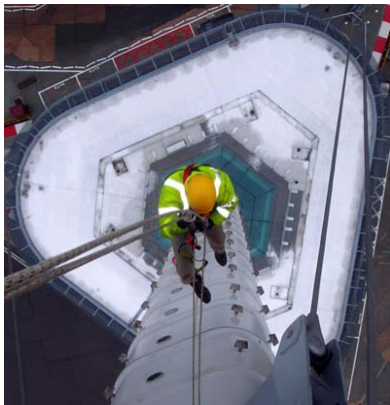




IRATA rope access breaks all records – again!

The publication of its 19th Annual Work and Safety Analysis confirms the standing of IRATA International in the work-at-height sector in so many ways. This independently-audited survey demonstrates that IRATA is a trade association dedicated to high standards shown in a thorough work-related training programme and operational procedures that deliver safe working to every continent. Rope access offers credible and effective work solutions with dramatic environmental benefits



Headlines from the Analysis

- * A 30% increase in the hours worked on ropes in 2007 against the previous year!
- * A further fall in the incident rate from 1.45 to 1.22 per 100,000 hours worked – the third lowest in our history despite the record number of hours worked!
- * Membership has doubled since 2004 and a record number of technicians – over 5200 – were trained in 2007!
- * Serious injury data shown to be a fraction of those recorded in similar work sectors!
- * Accident/incident cases down 23% on 2006 even though many more hours worked!
- * Only one ‘fall’ reported; no injury resulted!

Comments from the independent compiler of the Analysis

- ‘The trend in accident and incident figures for IRATA companies continued to decline’
- ‘The historical improvement in overall standards was maintained’
- ‘Explanations for the continuing improvement may include –
 - Disciplined training and work procedures
 - Rigorous and continuing assessment (of rope access technicians)
 - Close supervision at the work site
 - High calibre of work force generally.’

Zero deaths on rope in 19 years of these independent reports

Declining incident rate despite dramatic increase in hours worked



Lessons learned from cautionary notes in the report

- Pre-work site checks recommended to guard against falling objects
- Use of better eye protection recommended when using abrasive tools
 - Use of better hand protection as required

Comments for publication:

James Grosset, Chairman: *'IRATA International is proud to be able to issue such a positive report at a time when workplace safety is of such concern to us all. For 20 years IRATA has trained its technicians diligently and enabled skills to be carried on to site that have become internationally recognised and admired. Once again we have demonstrated that industrial rope access is a safe procedure and have done this in a year when the hours worked have increased at an unprecedented rate.'*

Karl Raby, Vice Chairman: *'With IRATA now operating globally, including in countries where safe working regimes have not been commonplace, it is reassuring to have this independent report so thoroughly vindicate our high standards of training and operational work. In every continent the simple use of our rope access procedures to undertake work at height and in areas of difficult access has not only brought good practice to new markets but has also greatly reduced risk and delivered pride and professionalism where this has previously been in short supply.'*

Graham Burnett, Immediate Past Chairman and International Liaison: *'When you are responsible for maintaining and testing the great iconic structures of the world and in the same breath undertake key cleaning work in retail centres, shopping malls, High Streets and industrial complexes, it is vital to have fundamental rules and work practices that again deliver the performance illustrated here. Multi-nationals, utilities, councils, FM companies, site managers, designers and architects are finding rope access to be a true, long-term work solution. Our high standards are for hire!'*

Roderick Dymott, Chief Executive Officer: *'Where there may have been doubt – 'why ropes in the 21st century? – now we see not only certainty but confidence and a desire to maximise the advantages that rope access brings. Delivering the prized 'minimal environmental footprint' as well as safe working demonstrates the benefits but IRATA rope access is also remarkably flexible and can solve all manner of height and access issues, as ever-increasing numbers of businesses are discovering.'*

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A full list of members can be found at www.irata.org

All genuine IRATA members are listed there

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