

## **BS 7985, Code of practice for the use of rope access methods for industrial purposes – Recommendations and guidance supplementary to BS ISO 22846**

The British Standards Institution (BSI) has published BS EN 7985: 2013 (see <http://shop.bsigroup.com>). The new edition results in the withdrawal of BS 7985: 2009, *Code of practice for the use of rope access for industrial purposes*, and does not represent a full revision or review of the standard (which will be undertaken in due course).

The standard, when read in conjunction with BS ISO 22846-1: 2003 and BS ISO 22846-2: 2012, gives practical advice on the duties placed on employers, employees and self-employed people who use specialist rope access methods for work at height, and gives recommendations for good practice.

The new edition has been prepared following the publication last year of BS ISO 22846-1 and BS ISO 22846-2. In the new edition of BS 7985 the general, widely applicable advice now given in BS ISO 22846-1 and BS ISO 22846-2 has been omitted and BS 7985 just provides details to supplement these two standards.

The new edition refers to BS 7883. It is anticipated that a future revision of BS 7883, in its early stages, will include updated recommendations of the use of anchor devices.

The first edition of BS 7985, published in 2002 (and revised later, in 2009), was based on the Industrial Rope Access Trade Association<sup>1</sup> (IRATA) *Guidelines on the use of rope access methods for industrial purposes*, which represented a number of years of close co-operation with the Health and Safety Executive<sup>2</sup>. It included contributions from the Federation of Master Steeplejacks and Lightning Conductor Engineers (since renamed the Association of Technical Lightning and Access Specialists<sup>3</sup>).

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- 1 [www.irata.org](http://www.irata.org)
  - 2 [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
  - 3 [www.atlas.org.uk/](http://www.atlas.org.uk/)

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