



Why Rope Access (RA)?

RA offers a more versatile method of access used in a wide variety of work areas such as inspection and testing, safety surveys, maintenance and repair, cleaning and painting, glazing, etc. It is quick and easy to install and dismantle and is a practical, safe solution, which can solve many awkward and troublesome issues that could otherwise involve large investment in time & money.

Careers

If you are considering rope access as a new career we suggest you contact rope access contractors within industries such as construction – civil/railways, offshore/petro-chemical and window cleaning, to assess current employment prospects before enrolling. It is worth researching career options via irata.org and rigg-access.com, which advertise employment opportunities and offer careers advice.

Training at heightec

heightec has indoor height safety centres located in Kendal (Cumbria), London, Aberdeen and Leeds offering dedicated areas for rope access training, i.e. platforms, traverses and walls. They are within easy access of motorways, main rail links and airports.

Each course has a trainer-to-candidate ratio of up to 1:6, ensuring you get the right level of training and practice required to ensure you pass your final assessment and attain certification.

Course options:

Certification	Level 1 (ref)	Level 2 (ref)	Level 3 (ref)	Tall Structures
ISO	User (TRA1U)		Supervisor (TRA1S)	User (TRA4U)
IRATA	User (TRA2U)	Technician (TRA2I)	Supervisor (TRA2S)	
Duration (days)	5	5	5	3
Validity Period (years)	3	3	3	3
Trainer Ratio	1:6	1:6	1:6	1:6

ISO User - Entry level course for basic skills required to work under the supervision of a RA Supervisor.

ISO Supervisor - Designed for candidates with significant experience who wish to develop additional skills to allow them to supervise.

ISO Tall Structures* - For those who wish to use RA as a method of gaining access on tall structures. Candidates will be able to set up their own suspension system

IRATA L1 User - Entry level certification for candidates who wish to enter the industry.

IRATA L2 - Technician - An intermediate technician is capable of rigging working ropes, undertaking rescues and performing a variety of rope access tasks.

IRATA L3 Supervisor - Advanced course allowing supervision of a wide range of work sites

Entry requirements

Although RA candidates should be free of medical conditions which are contra-indications for this type of work, e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, obesity, etc. Completion of a self-certified medical declaration indicating such fitness will be required for all rope access courses. Minimum age is 18 years.

* Pre-requisite: A suitable in date Tower Climbing & Rescue certificate required.

Assessment

This has both practical and written components and is run by an independent assessor on the final day of the course. The first part of the assessment is a multiple-choice paper. The practical examination ensures that the basic principles have been learned. This is strictly monitored for dangerous practices.

Other Considerations

Equipment costings can be given at the time of a training course enquiry. However, it is recommended that equipment be selected following completion of the course.

The heightec Group Ltd. holds public and professional indemnity insurance which includes personal injury.



Which route - ISO or IRATA?

ISO (22846 Part 1 & 2 - Personal equipment for protection against falls)

ISO certification suitable for companies who work in a specific sector or in defined circumstances and who wish to add in-house rope access capability in specific, lower risk, environments to their portfolio. It allows for more detailed coverage of training skills in the environments similar to the intended rope access work environment, e.g.:

- Specialist net rigging
- Geotechnical
- Arboriculture
- Tall structures: mast, towers & WTG
- Window cleaning
- Lightning protection
- Comms

Companies should recognise the need to provide competent supervision, appropriate to the workplace and methods used.

ISO 22846-1: • Sets out fundamental principles for a system of work by which all RA should be carried out

ISO 22846-2: • Detailed code of practice
• Differentiates between levels of complexity in RA situations
• Sets out specific requirements for: management principles, knowledge for various levels of responsibility & practical competence requirements
• Formed from the basis of the IRATA International Code of Practice and provides an excellent compliance document for all parties concerned with rope access

The code of practice is goal setting in its approach, in particular in relation to the level of competence required for different work tasks or different types of work location.

Supervisors should be competent in all rope access techniques appropriate to the workplace. The level of supervision should be appropriate to the work situation and the number and skills of the operatives in the work team.

A newly qualified operative should at first be under the direct supervision of the supervisor and then gradually be allowed to progress to working under the close supervision of an experienced operative, at the supervisor's discretion.

For more information on ISO 22846 part 1 & 2, visit - iso.org



IRATA (Industrial Rope Access Trade Association)

IRATA certification is suitable for individuals who wish to enter the industry and will be working in a variety of situations.



IRATA was established in 1980's to provide a safe working environment for the industry. Widely recognised, IRATA works to improve safety in the industry, produces an industry standard set of guidelines and training requirements and provides a comprehensive assessment and registration process for operatives.

For individuals wishing to pursue work as a freelance rope access technician we recommend the IRATA scheme, which is widely recognised by rope access contracting companies.

For more information on IRATA ICoP, visit - irata.org/publications

