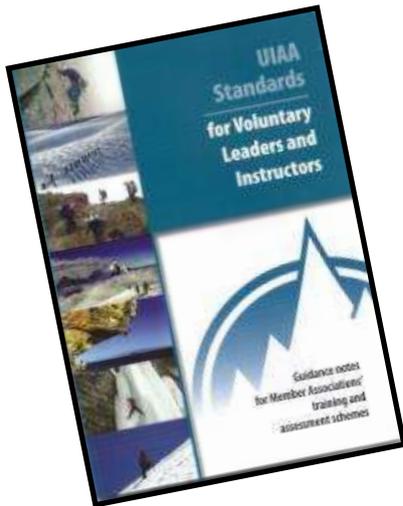


## UIAA Standards for Voluntary Leaders and Instructors



## Mountain Qualification Labels Guidance notes for Member Associations' Training and Assessment schemes



4th Edition,  
Agreed by

UIAA Mountaineering Commission, 2015



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**UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME**

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## INTRODUCTION

### Background

The UIAA Mountaineering Commission developed Mountain Qualification Labels for voluntary leaders and instructors in response to requests from Member Associations for guidance on widely accepted good practice and standards for training schemes. These were adopted by the General Assembly in 1993 (Santiago de Chile) to assist Member Associations wishing to use the original four standards. In 2015 the training standards were rebranded as Mountain Qualification Labels and they are managed by a pool of experts (the Training Panel). The accreditation services were introduced initially as an ad hoc arrangement based upon the UIAA Training Standards document that was introduced in 1993, and revised and extended regularly in recent years.

**Mountain Qualification Labels (MQL)** offer a unique opportunity to match the UIAA's success in delivering an independent international standard for mountaineering equipment with another of its areas of renowned expertise: training in personal skills and qualifications for mountaineering and climbing activities.

### Vision and Objectives

**The vision:** Access for mountain lovers to safe and inspiring leadership and instruction is improved; safety, enjoyment and fulfilment in the world's wildest places and encouraging sustainable practices.

Our objectives:

1. **Harmonize** the training qualification programmes/schemes of the UIAA Member Federations, in order to achieve or exceed a training qualification level recognized worldwide;
2. **Support** especially UIAA Member Federations who do not have the means to establish their own national training qualification programme/schemes;
3. **Professionalize** and expand the existing Training Qualification service: expert cutting-edge advice is provided through the medium of several common languages, and a range of state-of-the-art teaching resources is available to assist developing federations;
4. **Franchise** personal skills training; to be delivered by UIAA accredited-instructors<sup>1</sup> ;
5. **Reduce accidents** and develop best and sustainable mountaineering and climbing practices;
6. **Adapt** the target audience to market requirement (encourage broader membership of UIAA).

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<sup>1</sup> Including IFMGA members (The IFMGA is an UIAA Observer Member Federation)



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### **Scope**

Member Associations have total discretion to use or not use the Mountain Qualification Labels in their own country. There is no UIAA requirement to make use of the labels or the evaluation offered by the Training Panel. Member Associations alone have the responsibility for training and assessing their own national leaders and instructors. The Member Associations also have the responsibility to ensure that requirements are met for relevant national legislation and insurance.

The use of the Mountain Qualification Labels is a means by which Member Associations can demonstrate their training and assessment schemes have been independently evaluated and meet accepted standards. The use of the labels also allows opportunities for mutual recognition of qualifications between Member Associations.

The Training panel has developed the Mountain Qualification Labels specifically with the needs in mind of Member Associations and their leaders and instructors working in a voluntary capacity with other members of their federation. However, Member Associations may wish to apply the labels in wider circumstances (e.g. for leaders and instructors who are paid, and who might be working with the public). Where this is the case, the Member Association concerned is responsible for ensuring their scheme meets the applicable standards in their country for the wider application of the UIAA Mountain Qualification Labels.

In the context of the Mountain Qualification Labels the following definitions apply: A leader is a person who can take responsibility for other people and lead or supervise an activity. An instructor is a person who can teach people including beginners so they are competent to take part in an activity.

### **Application and Evaluation**

Member Associations wishing to apply for a Mountain Qualification Label should contact the UIAA Office [training@theuiaa.org?subject=training](mailto:training@theuiaa.org?subject=training) . The Training Panel will appoint a validator to work with the Member Association and evaluate the proposed Scheme. The expert will:

- a) Evaluate the scheme that has been proposed in relation to the relevant UIAA Mountain Qualification Label.

And where appropriate:

- b) Help the Member Association improve their scheme and meet the UIAA Mountain Qualification Label.
- c) Produce a report and make a recommendation to the UIAA Mountaineering Commission.

The process of the Member Association working with the Training Panel and with the validator is the most important and valuable aspect of the Mountain Qualification Labels service.



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## A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Evaluation procedure

#### **Documentation**

The first step is for the Member Association to submit a dossier with all the relevant information and documentation about the scheme that they wish to be evaluated. This will then be reviewed by the Training Panel and a validator will be appointed to work with the Member Association to carry out the evaluation.

The dossier should contain an outline of the training scheme that is being submitted for approval. The scheme should contain a training course, an experience period, and an assessment course.

The proposed scheme can be for a leader or an instructor. If the scheme is for an instructor, the candidate must be assessed for their teaching skills.

The proposed scheme should include the following information:

- ✓ The purpose of the scheme;
- ✓ Description of the qualification;
- ✓ Definition of the qualification holder's role;
- ✓ Definition of the limits of the qualification;
- ✓ Candidates' pre-training requirements (this must include first aid);
- ✓ The skills and knowledge included in the training and the means by which they will be assessed (see requirements in section B and C);
- ✓ The requirements for on-going training of the qualification holder and the revalidation of the qualification.

The qualification may be in different formats depending upon the circumstances and needs of the Member Association. The format of the qualification may be one or more of the following:

- ✓ Award Certificate
- ✓ Log book
- ✓ Licence
- ✓ Evaluation visit

Once any points of clarification in the documentation have been dealt with, the validator and Member Association will agree a visit (or visits) to evaluate the proposed scheme.

#### **Costs**

The costs of evaluation visits are included in the support package fees. Member Association are required to pay for travel and accommodation of the expert at normal economy fares and reasonable accommodation – this allows the Member association to reduce costs by applying for sponsorship/grant funding if it chooses. The UIAA has a modest development budget that



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may be available in some circumstances, and the UIAA is willing to assist in applications for development funding from other agencies.

**Evaluation criteria**

The validator will review whatever aspects he or she believes is relevant to the application made by the Member Association, but this will include:

- ✓ Member Association representation of Federation
- ✓ Adequate facilities
- ✓ Appropriate terrain
- ✓ Competent senior instructors
- ✓ Candidates with appropriate experience and skills, who are fit to be trained and assessed
- ✓ Programme design and management
- ✓ Training methods
- ✓ Teaching materials and resources
- ✓ Assessment procedures
- ✓ Scheme review system
- ✓ Procedure for dealing with complaints and appeals

**2. Common Basis**

The title “Mountain Qualification Label” indicates that a Member Association has a structured training and assessment scheme for leaders and/or instructors that has been validated by independent examination by a UIAA Expert.

The designation of the title “Mountain Qualification Label” to a Member Association is an indication that the training and assessment scheme meets the relevant technical standards for the activity bearing in mind the needs of the federation and the environment and facilities in their country.

The designation is also an indication that the Federation’s scheme is in accordance with other UIAA policies such as the *Environmental Guidelines and Objectives* and the *Summit Charter* (both available from the UIAA website). For example, the *Summit Charter* includes the UIAA’s commitment to promoting equal opportunities for all people taking part in climbing and mountaineering. Therefore, training schemes are expected to demonstrate a positive attitude towards equal opportunities (Equality of access).

**3. Approval**

Once the Expert has completed the evaluation, he or she will submit a report to the Training Panel. The Mountaineering Commission will inform the Member Association of the outcome



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of the evaluation, if they have been awarded the Mountain Qualification Label, and if there are any special considerations or limitations that might apply.

The authorisation to use the term “Mountain Qualification Label” may only be applied by the Member Association to the specific scheme that has been evaluated. The authorisation may be withdrawn by the Mountaineering Commission if it is concerned that the scheme no longer meets the relevant label or the constitution of the Member Association has substantially changed, but normally the authorisation is valid for a period of 5 years and can be renewed. The UIAA reserves the right to review the articles of association of the Member Association within the 5 year period.

Once authorised the Member Association may use the UIAA logo and term “Mountain Qualification Label” on the documentation for the approved scheme and any certificates or identity cards held by the qualified persons, provided it complies with the UIAA Branding policies (contact the UIAA office for more information [office@theuiaa.org](mailto:office@theuiaa.org)). The certificate or identity card must clearly state the scope and limits of the qualification held, and the identity of the person holding the qualification. It is strongly recommended that the card contains a QR code providing a link to the Member Association’s information about the qualification(s) on the internet.

## B. ACTIVITY STANDARDS

The following set out the minimum specifications for pre-training experience, skills and knowledge that should be the content of the scheme being proposed for approval. Where appropriate the MQL may be used in combination.

Qualifications accredited with Mountain Qualification Labels can be awarded the UIAA label for activity leaders, and should be used in conjunction with the Teaching (Pedagogic) Standards for qualifications for instructors (See C: Teaching (Pedagogic) Standards).

If the proposed scheme includes activities at high-altitude, in tropical regions or avalanche terrain, it must be used in conjunction with the relevant additional qualification requirements. (see D: Additional Requirements).

### 1. Mountain Walking and Trekking (summer)

This label may include steep terrain, scrambling, and overcoming obstacles such as small rock steps and patches of snow or ice. This label is not designed for use in situations that require the techniques of mountaineering to make progress, such as rock or ice climbing.

1.1 The scheme must define the type of terrain that it applies to, and the type of terrain that is outside the scope of the qualification.

1.2 The candidate should not be less than 18 years old at the time of assessment.

1.3 Pre training experience



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The scheme must include a defined minimum of experience (e.g. years, number and type of mountain walks or treks, different areas and terrain, etc.).

#### 1.4 Skills

The scheme should test the candidates' ability to demonstrate effective personal techniques and ability in the following areas:

- a) Safe movement ascending, descending and traversing mountain terrain including:
  - ✓ Steep ground\*
    - ✓ 'Broken' or uneven terrain\*
    - ✓ Ridges\*
    - ✓ Gullies\*
    - ✓ Easy rock steps\*
    - ✓ Snow covered ground\*
- b) Basic rope work\*
- c) Route finding and navigation through typical and difficult terrain
- d) Journey planning for groups
- e) Organisation and group leadership
- f) Camping and bivouacs
- g) Avoiding and solving common problems
- h) Emergency procedures
- i) First aid \*

\*If included in the scope of the scheme

#### 1.5 Knowledge

The scheme should test the candidates' knowledge about and their ability to give advice on the following:

- a) Recognition and treatment of exhaustion, hypothermia, cold injury and heat disorders
- b) Terrain and weather hazards
- c) Journey planning, route choice, route grades, way marks and guidebooks
- d) Camping and mountain huts
- e) Nutrition
- f) Physiology and injury prevention
- g) Emergency procedures
- h) Mountain protection and sustainable practices
- i) Mountain Culture
- j) Access issues
- k) Legal liability and insurance
- l) Training



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## **2. Winter Mountain Walking and Snowshoeing**

This label may be limited to low angle terrain or tracks that have very limited exposure to avalanche hazards or are in avalanche-controlled areas. However, if the scope of the scheme is to include travel in avalanche terrain it must be used in conjunction with the Avalanche label. This label is not designed for use in situations that require the techniques of mountaineering to make progress, such as rock or ice climbing.

2.1 The scheme must define the type of terrain that it applies to, and the type of terrain that is outside the scope of the qualification.

2.2 The candidate should not be less than 18 years old at the time of assessment.

### **2.3 Pre training experience**

The scheme must include a defined minimum of experience (e.g. years, number and type of mountain walks or treks, different areas and terrain, etc.).

### **2.4 Skills**

The scheme should test the candidates' ability to demonstrate effective personal techniques and ability in the following areas:

- a) Safe movement ascending, descending and traversing mountain terrain including:
  - ✓ Steep ground\*
  - ✓ 'Broken' or uneven terrain\*
  - ✓ Ridges\*
  - ✓ Gullies\*
  - ✓ Easy rock steps\*
- b) Basic rope work\*
- c) Route finding and navigation through typical and difficult terrain
- d) Journey planning for groups
- e) Organisation and group leadership
- f) Camping and bivouacs
- g) Avoiding and solving common problems
- h) Emergency procedures
- i) First aid \*

\*If included in the scope of the scheme

### **2.5 Knowledge**

The scheme should test the candidates' knowledge about and their ability to give advice on the following:

- a) Recognition and treatment of exhaustion, hypothermia, cold injury and heat disorders
- b) Terrain and weather hazards
- c) Avalanche hazard awareness
- d) Journey planning, route choice, route grades, way marks and guidebooks
- e) Camping and mountain huts



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- f) Nutrition
- g) Physiology and injury prevention
- h) Emergency procedures
- i) Mountain protection and sustainable practices
- j) Mountain Culture
- k) Access issues
- l) Legal liability and insurance
- m) Training

### **3. Sport Climbing (fixed equipment: gym, single pitch or multi-pitch)**

A sport climb is defined as being fully equipped with bolts for protection and belay anchors. The Sport Climbing label is only valid for climbing areas with easy approaches and descents (i.e. no navigation or mountaineering skills required) unless it is combined with the Mountain Walking and Trekking (summer) standard.

3.1 The scheme must define if it is limited to single pitch climbs, multi pitch climbs and/or artificial climbing walls. .

3.2 The candidate should not be less than 18 years old at the time of assessment.

3.3 Pre training experience

- ✓ The candidate must have experience of on-sight leading grade 5 (UIAA).
- ✓ The scheme must include a defined minimum of experience (e.g. years, number of climbs, rock types, areas, etc.).

#### 3.4 Skills

The scheme should test the candidates' ability to demonstrate effective personal techniques and ability in the following areas:

- a) On-sight lead efficiently
- b) Climbing movement skills
- c) Bouldering
- d) Basic coaching and teaching
- e) Group management and leadership
- f) Climbing calls
- g) Rope management, knots, quick draws, belays and belaying
- h) Abseiling
- i) Emergency procedures
- j) Avoiding and solving common problems
- k) First aid

#### 3.5 Knowledge

The scheme should test the candidates' knowledge about and their ability to give advice on the following:



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- a) Climbing equipment (e.g. footwear, belay devices and descenders, helmets, harness, ropes, slings, karabiners, etc.)
- b) Care of equipment
- c) Safety chains and fall factors
- d) Types of bolts and anchors
- e) Rock types
- f) Ethics and tradition
- g) Route choice, grades and use of guidebooks
- h) Mountain protection and sustainable practices
- i) Mountain culture
- j) Access issues
- k) Risk management, safety and emergency procedures
- l) Nutrition
- m) Physiology and injury prevention
- n) Personal liability and insurance
- o) Training
- p) Competitions

#### **4. Rock Climbing (with leader placed protection, and single or multi-pitch)**

The Rock Climbing label is only valid for climbing areas with easy approaches and descents (i.e. no navigation or mountaineering skills required), unless it is combined with the Mountain Walking and Trekking (summer) label.

4.1 The scheme must define if it is for single pitch or multi pitch climbs.

4.2 The candidate should not be less than 18 years old at the time of assessment.

4.3 Pre training experience

The candidate must have experience of on-sight leading 5 (UIAA).

The scheme must include a defined minimum of experience (e.g. years, number of climbs, rock types, areas, etc.).

#### **4.4 Skills**

The scheme should test the candidates' ability to demonstrate effective personal techniques and ability in the following areas:

- a) On-sight lead efficiently
- b) Select and place protection equipment including multi-point anchors
- c) Rope management, knots, running belays, and belaying
- d) Single and double rope techniques
- e) Route finding
- f) Climbing movement skills
- g) Bouldering
- h) Basic coaching and teaching



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- i) Group management and leadership
- j) Climbing calls
- k) Abseiling
- l) Emergency procedures
- m) Avoiding and solving common problems
- n) First aid

#### 4.5 Knowledge

The scheme should test the candidates' knowledge about and their ability to give advice on the following:

- a) Climbing equipment (e.g. footwear, belay devices and descenders, helmets, harness, ropes, slings, karabiners, protection equipment, etc.)
- b) Care of equipment
- c) Types of anchors (chocks, camming devices, bolts, etc.)
- d) Dynamic safety system (e.g. impact forces, safety chain and fall factors).
- e) Rock types
- f) Ethics and tradition
- g) Route choice, grades and use of guidebooks
- h) Mountain protection and sustainable practices
- i) Mountain culture
- j) Access issues
- k) Risk management, safety and emergency procedures
- l) Nutrition
- m) Physiology and injury prevention
- n) Personal liability and insurance
- o) Training

## **5. Canyoning**

The Canyoning label will normally include summer hill walking skills as a pre-requisite, or essential components of the qualification. This qualification may also optionally stipulate a minimum level for rock climbing.

6.1 The scheme must define the type of terrain that it applies to, and the type of terrain that is outside the scope of the qualification.

6.2 The candidate should not be less than 18 years old at the time of assessment.

6.3 Pre training experience

The scheme must include a defined minimum of experience (e.g. years, number and type of mountain walks or treks, different areas and terrain, etc.).

- Ability to swim 25 metres with buoyancy aid
- Good physical condition

6.4 Pre- assessment requirements



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- Personal: 15+ canyons, 5 including abseiling. 3 different rock types 2 different regions Leadership: 10 days leading or assisting canyoning journeys
- Ability to swim 25 metres without buoyancy aid + 4 m under water + jumping 2 m vertically into water
- Current first aid certification
- Good physical condition

### 6.5 Skills

The scheme should test the candidates' ability to demonstrate effective personal techniques and ability in the following areas:

- a. Safe movement ascending, descending and traversing canyon terrain including:
  - ✓ Steep ground\*
  - ✓ 'Broken' or uneven terrain\*
  - ✓ Ridges\*
  - ✓ Gullies\*
  - ✓ Slippery terrain\*
  - ✓ Easy rock steps\*
  - ✓ Snow covered ground\*
- b. Orientation: Route finding and navigation through typical and difficult terrain
- c. Risk Management and protocols: Personal and Group
- d. Planning & Logistics:
  - i. Journey planning for groups
- e. Camping and bivouacs
- f. Organisation and group leadership: roles and psychology
- g. Defensive swimming: Wild water in canyoning (identification, analysis and knowledge to attain the different water movements, rescue).
- h. Basic rope work: types of rope, rappel, rappel pulley technique, rappel + client, 2 ropes, guided rappel, handrail, knots.
- i. Risk Management:
  - i. Avoiding and solving common and complex problems
  - ii. Tactics and strategy
- j. Emergency procedures: situation analysis, evacuation issues, the escape.
- k. First aid: calling assistance, remote care, drowning, others

\* If included in the scope of the scheme

### 6.6 Knowledge

The scheme should test the candidates' knowledge about and their ability to give advice on the following:

- a. Recognition and treatment of exhaustion, hypothermia, cold injury and heat disorders
- b. Terrain and weather hazards and animals
- c. Hydrology, topology and Geology
- d. Communication protocols



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- e. Security protocols
  - ✓ Progression in the Canyon protocols
  - ✓ Rappel protocol
  - ✓ Group protocol.
  - ✓ Anchor area protocols
- a. Journey planning, route choice, route grades, way marks and guidebooks
- b. Camping and other accommodation
- c. Nutrition and hydration
- d. Physiology and injury prevention
- e. Emergency procedures
- f. Environmental protection and mountain culture
- g. Legal liability and insurance
- h. Training

## **6. Ice Climbing**

The Ice Climbing label is only valid for climbs with easy approaches and descents (i.e. no navigation skills required and minimal exposure to hazards) unless it is combined with the Winter Mountain Walking and Snowshoeing label. If the scope of the scheme is to include travel in avalanche terrain, it must be used in conjunction with the Avalanche additional requirements.

6.1 The scheme must define if it includes dry tooling and/or mixed climbing.

6.2 The candidate should not be less than 18 years old at the time of assessment.

6.3 Pre training experience

The candidate must have experience of leading multi-pitch ice climbs at grade WI III.

The scheme must include a defined minimum of experience (e.g. years, number and type of climbs, areas, etc.).

### 6.4 Skills

The scheme should test the candidates' ability to demonstrate effective personal techniques and ability in the following areas:

- a) On-sight lead efficiently
- b) Select and place protection equipment including multi-point anchors
- c) Rope management, knots, running belays, and belaying
- d) Single, twin and double rope techniques
- e) Route finding
- f) Climbing movement skills
- g) Basic coaching and teaching
- h) Group management and leadership
- i) Climbing calls
- j) Abseiling
- k) Emergency procedures



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- l) Avoiding and solving common problems
- m) First aid

### 6.5 Knowledge

The scheme should test the candidates' knowledge about and their ability to give advice on the following:

- a) Climbing equipment (e.g. ice tools, crampons, footwear, clothing, ice screws, belay devices and descenders, helmets, harness, ropes, slings, karabiners, protection equipment, etc.)
- b) Care of equipment
- c) Risk management, safety and emergency procedures
- d) Dynamic safety system (e.g. impact forces, safety chain and fall factors).
- e) Winter hazards.
- f) Managing in the cold environment.
- g) Prevention and treatment of cold injury and hypothermia.
- h) Protection from solar radiation.
- i) Ice types and formations
- j) Ethics and tradition
- k) Different climbing styles and techniques
- l) Dry-tooling and mixed climbing
- m) Route choice, grades and use of guidebooks
- n) Mountain protection and sustainable practices
- o) Mountain culture
- p) Access issues
- q) Nutrition
- r) Physiology and injury prevention
- s) Personal liability and insurance
- t) Training

## **7. Alpine Climbing**

**Note:** The Alpine Climbing Label is an advanced standard, since it includes significant elements of several of the other Activity Labels. Normally a Member Association will apply for accreditation for this Label only after having been accredited with one of the other Activity labels. Direct entry for the Alpine Climbing Label is therefore normally only available with additional mentoring support and/or extra time for the validation visit.

The Alpine Label potentially covers a wide variety of mountain environments and therefore it is particularly important that the scope and remit of the qualification is carefully defined.

7.1 The scheme must define the type of terrain that it applies to, and the type of terrain (if any) that is outside the scope of the qualification.

7.2 The candidate should not be less than 18 years old at the time of assessment.

7.3 Pre training experience



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The scheme must include a defined minimum of experience (e.g. years, number and type of journeys and ascents, different areas, etc.).

Candidates should be:

- ✓ Active alpine climbers with experience of ascents on snow, ice and rock.
- ✓ Able to lead UIAA Grade 4 alpine rock and 50° ice.
- ✓ Experienced in glacier travel.

#### 7.4 Skills

The scheme should test the candidates' ability to demonstrate effective personal techniques and ability in the following areas:

- a) Safe movement ascending, descending and traversing alpine terrain including:
  - ✓ Steep ground
  - ✓ Ridges
  - ✓ Gullies
  - ✓ Rock, ice and mixed steps
  - ✓ Glacier travel
  - ✓ Crevasse evacuation techniques
- b) Use of ice axe and crampons
- c) On-sight lead rock, ice and mixed ground efficiently
- d) Select and place protection equipment including multi-point anchors
- e) Rope management, knots, running belays, and belaying
- f) Single, twin and double rope techniques
- g) Route finding and navigation
- h) Climbing movement skills
- i) Basic coaching and teaching
- j) Group management and leadership
- k) Climbing calls
- l) Abseiling
- m) Emergency procedures
- n) Avoiding and solving common problems
- o) First aid

#### 7.5 Knowledge

The scheme should test the candidates' knowledge about and their ability to give advice on the following:

- a) Climbing equipment (e.g. ice tools, crampons, footwear, clothing, ice screws, belay devices and descenders, helmets, harness, ropes, slings, karabiners, protection equipment, etc.)
- b) Care of equipment
- c) Terrain and weather hazards
- d) Risk management, safety and emergency procedures
- e) Dynamic safety system (e.g. impact forces, safety chain and fall factors)
- f) Prevention and treatment of cold injury and hypothermia



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- g) Protection from solar radiation
- h) Ethics and tradition
- i) Different climbing styles and techniques
- j) Route choice, grades and use of guidebooks
- k) Mountain protection and sustainable practices
- l) Mountain culture
- m) Access issues
- n) Nutrition
- o) Physiology and injury prevention
- p) Personal liability and insurance
- q) Training

## **8. Ski Mountaineering**

The Ski Mountaineering label must be used in conjunction with the Avalanche requirements (section C).

8.1 The scheme must define the type of terrain that it applies to, and the type of terrain (if any) that is outside the scope of the qualification (e.g. if the scheme includes glacier terrain or not).

8.2 The candidate should not be less than 18 years old at the time of assessment.

8.3 Pre training experience

The scheme must include a defined minimum of experience (e.g. years, number and type of tours and journeys, different areas, etc.).

Candidates should be:

- ✓ Active ski mountaineers with experience of ascents, descents and multi-day tours.
- ✓ Able to ski in control off-piste in difficult snow conditions.
- ✓ Knowledgeable about safe glacier travel and alpine mountaineering techniques\*

### 8.4 Skills

The scheme should test the candidates' ability to demonstrate effective personal techniques and ability in the following areas:

- a) Good downhill skiing technique in a variety of off-piste snow conditions
- b) Good ascending technique on skins and crampons
- c) Risk awareness and risk reduction
- d) Route finding and navigation
- e) Glacier travel and crevasse evacuation\*
- f) Alpine mountaineering techniques\*
- g) Basic coaching and teaching
- h) Group management and leadership
- i) Emergency procedures
- j) Avoiding and solving common problems



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- k) First aid

\*If included in the scope of the scheme

### 8.5 Knowledge

The scheme should test the candidates' knowledge about and their ability to give advice on the following:

- a) Ski mountaineering equipment and clothing
- b) Care of equipment
- c) Terrain and weather hazards
- d) Risk management, safety and emergency procedures
- e) Prevention and treatment of cold injury and hypothermia
- f) Protection from solar radiation
- g) Traditions and ski mountaineering competitions
- h) Route choice, grades and use of guidebooks
- i) Mountain protection and sustainable practices
- j) Mountain Culture
- k) Access issues
- l) Nutrition
- m) Physiology and injury prevention
- n) Personal liability and insurance
- o) Training

## **C. TEACHING (PEDAGOGIC) STANDARDS**

The Teaching (Pedagogic) Standards are to be used in conjunction with the Activity Standards in order to be accredited as Instructor Qualifications. Instructors should be technically competent (hence the Activity Standard requirement) and in addition should be trained in the following pedagogical matters:

### 7.1 Pre training experience

The scheme must include a defined minimum of experience for candidates (e.g. teaching observation)

### 7.2 Skills

The scheme should test the candidates' ability to demonstrate effective personal techniques and ability in the following areas:

- 1. Session planning and preparation
- 2. Verbal and non-verbal communication
- 3. Management and/or delivery of demonstrations
- 4. Supervising safe activity practice
- 5. Use of visual aids and other teaching media
- 6. Supervising session debrief
- 7. Delivering feedback to individuals and groups



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8. Mentoring
9. Negotiating action plans
10. Reflective practice

### 7.3 Knowledge

The scheme should test the candidates' knowledge about and their ability to give advice on the following:

1. Available teaching resources (e.g. syllabus, prospectus, handbook, publications)
2. Use of presentation equipment and presentation templates (if available)
3. Basic Awareness of Association and UIAA structure

## **D. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Additional Requirements are to be used where appropriate with the Qualification Labels.

### **1. High Altitude**

For the purposes of the MQL, "high altitude" is any altitude at which problems caused by apoxia (difficulty accessing oxygen in the air due to the reduced pressure) become a significant risk, i.e. approximately 3,000 metres and above. The scheme must include experience, skills and knowledge about:

- ✓ The process of acclimatisation
- ✓ The symptoms and treatment for mountain sickness
- ✓ Emergency procedures in the event of acute mountain sickness

### **2. Specific Regions**

The scheme must include experience, skills and knowledge about:

- ✓ Special environmental considerations
- ✓ Special environmental hazards
- ✓ Survival techniques

### **3. Avalanche Terrain**

The scheme must include experience, skills and knowledge about:

- ✓ Snow structure, avalanche types, terrain features and triggers
- ✓ Avalanche information, observations and decision making
- ✓ Rescue organisation, searching and emergency care



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**ANNEX**

**Definitions**

In the context of the UIAA Mountain Qualification Labels the following definitions apply:

1. **UIAA Mountain Qualification Label (MQL):** A Member Association that has been successfully validated as meeting the UIAA standards for qualifications is awarded the UIAA Training Label.
2. **UIAA Expert or UIAA Mentor:** A qualified instructor, appointed by the UIAA Mountaineering Commission; the Expert/Mentor must satisfy specific criteria and be recommended by an accredited Member Association as having overall responsible for its Training Scheme.
3. **UIAA Validator:** A UIAA Expert who is also authorised by the UIAA Mountaineering Commission to conduct an audit of a training scheme in order to accredit a qualification for a training label.
4. **Training Panel:** the Training Panel of the Mountaineering Commission is responsible for quality assurance of the UIAA Mountain Qualification Label procedures.
5. **A leader** is a person who can take responsibility for other people and lead or supervise an activity.
6. **An instructor** is a person who can teach people including beginners so they are competent to take part in an activity. Instructor qualifications include all the skills and knowledge of a leader qualification, plus the pedagogic skills to teach others.