Regulations for existing and potential UIAA Accredited Laboratories

UIAA Safety Label

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

UIAA Accredited Laboratories Regulations Version 14
14 pages

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Introduction to the UIAA Safety Label

The UIAA label on a piece of climbing or mountaineering equipment attests it to be of the highest international standards for safety. The UIAA started testing ropes in 1960 and now has standards for many different categories of safety equipment. The complete list can be found here: www.theuiaa.org/safety-standards/.

The UIAA Safety Label can be awarded for climbing and mountaineering equipment that meets the requirements of the relevant UIAA standard. Climbing and mountaineering equipment, tested to the UIAA standards, is recommended by the UIAA for use by climbers and mountaineers world-wide.

The UIAA Safety Label logo trademark is registered internationally and may only be used for products that have been certified by the UIAA and registered as such.

UIAA recognizes the need to cooperate and collaborate with all parties concerned to standardize the use of Safety Labels. This collaboration promotes safety awareness, good practice and the evolution of quality products for climbing and mountaineering. Partnership is offered to all stakeholders that pursue and support safety in mountaineering equipment.

These UIAA Standards can have additional requirements over and above those specified in EN standards.

Contents

1 Definition of the UIAA Safety Label

The UIAA Safety Label is a certification that is awarded to climbing and mountaineering equipment that meets the requirements of the relevant UIAA Safety Standard. The UIAA Safety Label demonstrates that a product meets relevant standards as determined by the UIAA Safety Commission in collaboration with the Safety Label Holders. Such equipment is strongly recommended by the UIAA for use by climbers and mountaineers world-wide.

The UIAA Safety Label trademark is registered and copyright protected internationally under the Madrid Protocol (WIPO International registration number 949706).

2 UIAA Safety Standards

The UIAA was the first organization to create standards for mountaineering and climbing equipment in the world. An UIAA safety standard is a standard that describe the minimum safety requirements and test methods that are used to certify that a specific product meets the high demands for the UIAA safety label.

Today, most of the UIAA standards are based on the CEN standards in order to avoid the confusion of multiple standards. New standards are often first developed by the UIAA safety commission and later used for developing a EN standard. The Safety Commission experts (many of are also CEN experts), in cooperation with manufacturers and test laboratories, keep improving the existent UIAA standards as well as create new ones.

The UIAA has to this date around 26 standards. These standards sometimes imply higher and/or additional requirements above those in the CEN standards and for some safety standards there are no corresponding CEN standard. These extra-requirements are clearly specified in the standards.

3 Definition of the UIAA Safety Label Partners

3.1 UIAA Safety Commission

The UIAA Safety Commission is the commission within the UIAA that has the responsibility and authority to create, maintain and develop UIAA safety standards and associated work regarding safety label holding manufacturers, and accredited laboratories etc.

The UIAA Safety Commission is formed of experts with engineering backgrounds from different UIAA member federations, as well as, international manufacturers with certified UIAA Safety Labels, and accredited testing laboratories.

The UIAA Safety Commission works to minimize accidents in climbing and mountaineering by developing and revising technical safety standards for equipment (the UIAA standards). It accredits the laboratories which test the equipment according to the UIAA standards. The Commission also gives advice and recommendations to climbers and mountaineers on how to treat their equipment, and how best to use it to avoid accidents.

3.2 UIAA Safety Label Holder (SLH)

A UIAA Safety Label Holder is defined as a company or an organization that produces climbing equipment (i.e. manufacturer) or has it manufactured to its own specifications and has been awarded a UIAA Safety Label certification for at least one of its products.

An original equipment manufacturer (OEM) is a company that produces equipment by itself.

An original brand manufacturer (OBM) is a company that sells products made by an other company OEM.

The complete Safety Label Regulation can be found on UIAA website: https://www.theuiaa.org/safety/uiaa-safety-label/

3.3 UIAA Accredited Test Laboratory

A UIAA Accredited Test Laboratory is a laboratory where testing of equipment is done in accordance with the UIAA safety standards for climbing and mountaineering equipment or sub-contracts to another UIAA accredited laboratory where such testing is done.

All laboratories accredited by the UIAA as in **ANNEX A** are allowed to use the title “UIAA Accredited”. A maximum of two (2) representatives from each laboratory have a right to attend the UIAA Safety Commission Plenary meetings but without any voting rights. An accredited laboratory shall re-apply for certification at the end of its three (3) year term.

3.4 UIAA Safety Label Observer

Upon approval of the UIAA Safety Commission President, non-accredited laboratories can participate in Safety Commission activities as Observers without voting rights.

A manufacturer or laboratory wanting to participate in the Safety Commission activities and meetings as an ‘Observer’ must address a request to the UIAA Safety Commission along with the payment for the current calendar year of the fee as defined in chapter 6. The requests are to be made to the UIAA office. If accepted the observer will enter their details to the safety label holder or accredited laboratory database.

3.5 UIAA Safety Label Administrator

The administration of safety labels is part of the UIAA office staff. The person responsible uses the regulations to issue the certificates and works closely with the internal safety commission and accredited laboratories to administer the labels.

4 Administration of UIAA Accreditation for Laboratories

4.1 UIAA Laboratory accreditation process

4.1.1 Preamble

The recommendations concerning European laboratories and others are separated, because of the great concentration of UIAA accredited labs in Europe.

The European labs should have at least a tensile testing machine (to test carabiners, slings, etc.) and at least one of the dynamic testing machines needed for ropes and/or via-ferrata sets, helmets, crash pads. For the non-European labs, the accreditation should be possible with just one apparatus.

4.1.2 Obligation of the laboratory towards UIAA

Because accreditation is a recognition of competence, accredited laboratories must

- Ensure the quality of their results.
- Demonstrate their competence in their fields of activity.
- Their performance must be comparable with the results of other laboratories.
- The test report shall include the reference to the UIAA standard number (and not only the reference to EN standard number)
- In case of test sub-contracting to another laboratory, this latter shall be UIAA accredited and its name shall be mentioned on the test report.
- Show a minimal testing activity for the relevant products, by sending a bi-annual activity report to the UIAA Safety Commission.
- Join in the Safety Commission meetings regularly (at least once every three years)

4.1.3 Accreditation

Prior declaration

Any laboratory applying for accreditation sends a prior declaration to UIAA SafeCom secretary. This written request starts the request process.

For this, it must specify:

- The request subject, on which standards the laboratory applies for (ANNEX B)
- The signed AGREEMENT on the rights and obligations of the UIAA Accredited Laboratories (ANNEX C)
- Administrative information: identification of the applicant entity, contact details of the manager, others
- The ISO 9001 and ISO 17025 certificates

Upon receipt of this initial request, SafeCom will carry out an evaluation of the laboratory.

4.1.4 Assessment

The assessment must relate to the competence of the personnel, the equipment used and the respect of the test protocols.

The initial assessment systematically includes an in-person visit to the applicant laboratory. The laboratory is required to organize under the eyes of the UIAA assessors the various tests defining the standards for which it requests accreditation (prior to the visit, the assessors should inform the laboratory about the different tests that have to be shown during the inspection, so as to gain efficiency).

The different assessment points are:

- Review of the other accreditations, e.g. ISO 9001 & 17025, EU notified body, or other documents requested by assessors
- Analysis of procedures, operating methods, and records collected prior to the visit and consulted on site, documentary traceability of the services provided
- Interviews with staff
- Observation of the tests described in the standards, analysis of the results
- Round robin test (RRT) with other labs, for results consistency.

The assessment costs shall be covered by the applicant laboratory: assessors travel costs, round robin test costs, including 2 other laboratories costs to test the same equipment. The RRT is organized directly by the Safety Commission, for the applicant and the other laboratories.

4.1.5 Assessors

The UIAA commission nominates a team of assessor(s).

Assessor(s) must:

- Guarantee the neutrality and objectivity of the assessment.
- Have knowledge in the standards procedures.

Evaluation report

Assessors send the evaluation report to SafeCom within 3 weeks of the end of the evaluation.

Accreditation vote

The delegates vote or reject the accreditation based on the evaluation report and the RRT results.

4.2 Delivery of the UIAA Laboratory Accreditation

If all the conditions specified in Section 4.1 have been met, the UIAA Safety Label Administrator shall issue a certificate as per ANNEX D to the applicant laboratory who will then become a UIAA Accredited Laboratory.

The newly certified laboratory will be published as 'accredited' on the UIAA website simultaneously with the delivery of the certificate.

4.3 Validity of the UIAA Laboratory Accreditation

The UIAA Laboratory Accreditation is valid for 3 (three) years from the date of issue. A UIAA Laboratory Accreditation is only valid for the laboratory whose 'name' is on the certificate and for the 'equipment' as stated on the certificate.

4.4 Renewal & Termination of the UIAA Laboratory Accreditation

4.4.1 Renewal

The UIAA Laboratory Accreditation must be renewed at the end of a three-year term if continuity is to be maintained. After 3 years the laboratory has to ask for accreditation certificate again with the list of standards that they want to have accreditation for.

4.4.2 Termination

If the accredited laboratory wants to terminate the relationship, the Safety Label Administrator must be informed through a termination form as in ANNEX B TWO MONTHS in advance.

4.5 Withdrawal of the UIAA Laboratory Accreditation

The UIAA Safety Commission shall withdraw an existing accreditation from a UIAA Laboratory in the following conditions:

a) **Non-compliance:** If the laboratory is no longer able to keep the quality of testing according to UIAA safety standard(s), it will lose accreditation for that (those) safety standard(s).

b) **Default in renewal of certificate:** A reminder shall be sent by the Safety Label Administrator TWO MONTHS before expiry of accreditation.

   If the application for renewal of certificate is not received within time schedule a SECOND reminder will be sent. Persistent inaction may lead to withdrawal.

In case of a withdrawal, an appropriate notice will be published on the UIAA website.

5 Rights and Obligations of UIAA Accredited Laboratories

5.1 Rights of UIAA Accredited Laboratories

- To use the title “UIAA accredited” on their official documents and laboratory website;
- To conduct equipment testing according to the UIAA standards and report about their results;
- To be mentioned on the UIAA website and in the list of Accredited Laboratories included in the UIAA Accreditation Regulations document;
- To participate in the UIAA Safety Commission Plenary meetings;
- To appeal in writing to the UIAA Safety Commission President. In case of a dispute arising out of matters related to accreditation, a Board of Appeal comprising of the Safety Commission President, a Safety Commission Delegate (who cannot be from the country of the complainant) and the Safety Label Administrator will be convened.

5.2 Obligations of UIAA Accredited Laboratories

- To comply with the rules in the UIAA Accreditation Laboratories Regulations and resolutions decided by the UIAA Safety Commission;;
- To specifically implement the additional test requirements as required by the relevant UIAA safety standards;
- To reject samples if they do not fulfil the UIAA requirements;
- To inform the UIAA Safety Label Administrator in case of failure of a tested product through test reports;
- To participate free of charge in up to three Round Robin Tests during a three year accreditation period to the Safety Commission’s request;
- To reapply for accreditation at the end of its three-year term.

6 Fee structure for a UIAA Accredited Laboratories

A UIAA Safety Accredited Laboratory has to pay:

a.	Initial Accreditation fees	1000 EUR
b.	Travel expenses incurred by the UIAA Safety Commission member’s accreditation visit to the laboratory.	**As expended**
c.	Accreditation for additional equipment standards during the 3 years period. **This fee shall be waived for three years from the publishing of a new standard for accreditation to the new standard.*	**200 EUR per standard**
d.	Laboratory Renewal Fee (every 3 years)	**500 EUR**

The UIAA Safety Commission decides the above-mentioned fees. If the commission plans to raise the fees more than the rate of inflation, it shall inform the accredited laboratories as soon as possible.

These regulations were approved by the UIAA Safety Commission on 12th November 2024 and become effective immediately.

7 Annexes

ANNEX A List of UIAA Accredited Laboratories

The complete Safety Label Regulation can be found on UIAA website: https://www.theuiaa.org/safety/accredited-labs/

ANNEX B Application form

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

UIAA ACCREDITATION

Application for Laboratories

CERTIFICATION DETAILS:

☐ Are you an EU notified body?
☐ Are you ISO 17025 accredited?
Any other Quality Management System accreditation? _____
***Please send us the copy of your certificate along this application form.**

Please tick what is applicable:

☐ **New application for accreditation:** I accept responsibility for the information on this form and confirm our laboratory will comply with the UIAA Regulations for the Laboratory Accreditation.

☐ **Renewal application for accreditation**

Laboratory details	
Laboratory name	
Address, postal code, city, country	
General phone	
General e-mail address	
Website address	
Information on the contact person	
Your full name	
Your position	
Your e-mail address	
Direct phone	

Equipment Accredited for UIAA testing:

- ☐ 101 Dynamic Ropes
- ☐ *101 Water repellent
- ☐ 102 Accessory Cord
- ☐ 103 Tape
- ☐ 104 Slings
- ☐ 105 Harnesses
- ☐ 106 Helmets
- ☐ 107 Low Stretch Ropes
- ☐ 109 Belay Lanyards
- ☐ 121 Connectors
- ☐ 122 Pitons
- ☐ 123 Rock Anchors
- ☐ *123 Stress Corrosion SCC / GC / LC
- ☐ 124 Chocks
- ☐ 125 Frictional Anchors
- ☐ 126 Rope Clamps
- ☐ 127 Pulleys
- ☐ 128 Energy Absorbing
- ☐ 129 Braking Device
- ☐ 130 Load Sharing Devices
- ☐ 151 Ice Anchors
- ☐ 152 Ice Tools
- ☐ 153 Crampons
- ☐ 154 Snow Anchors
- ☐ 155 Snow Pickets
- ☐ 156 Avalanche Rescue Shovels
- ☐ 157 Avalanche Snow Probes
- ☐ 161 Crash Pads

Date: **Signature:**

Please fill in the form completely and do not forget to sign it. You can either scan this form and subsequently email it, including the required attachments, to the UIAA Safety Label Administrator: safetylabel@theuiaa.org

ANNEX C Agreement with Accredited Laboratory

UIAA APPROVED
TEST LABORATORY

Climbing and mountaineering equipment tested to the UIAA's equipment standards is recommended by the UIAA for use by climbers and mountaineers.

AGREEMENT on the rights and obligations of the UIAA Accredited Laboratories

Concluded between	UIAA Monbijoustrasse 61 Postfach CH – 3000 Bern 14 Switzerland Referred to hereafter as UIAA
And	.... Referred to hereafter as UIAA Test Laboratory
On	.....

The UIAA Test Laboratory supports the mission of the UIAA Safety Commission to help climbers manage the risk that is inherent in climbing and mountaineering:

- by testing climbing and mountaineering equipment according to UIAA standards;
- by working to minimize accidents caused by equipment failure or unsafe design;
- by informing about the UIAA safety standards to the climbing and mountaineering community and;
- by encouraging the exchange of ideas and knowledge about testing of equipment.

All questions and disputes arising from this agreement will be judged on the base of Swiss Law, and the courts of Bern, Switzerland will be the final court of decision.

Peter Muir
UIAA President

Lionel Kiener
UIAA SAFECOM President

(Name, signature & stamp UIAA Test Laboratory)
(Designation)

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

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ANNEX D UIAA Accredited Laboratory Certificate – Sample

UIAA APPROVED
TEST LABORATORY

Climbing and mountaineering equipment tested to the UIAA's equipment standards is recommended by the UIAA for use by climbers and mountaineers.

Laboratory name
Street
Postal Code / City
Product references:

The UIAA has the pleasure to accredit the above mentioned laboratoy as a UIAA Certified Laboratory for the following equipment:

☐ **UIAA 101** - Dynamic Ropes
*☐ 101*Water Repellent*
☐ **UIAA 102** - Accessory Cords
☐ **UIAA 103** - Tape
☐ **UIAA 104** - Slings
☐ **UIAA 105** - Harnesses
☐ **UIAA 106** - Helmets
☐ **UIAA 107** - Low Stretch Ropes
☐ **UIAA 109** - Belay Lanyards
☐ **UIAA 121** - Connectors
☐ **UIAA 122** - Pitons
☐ **UIAA 123** - Rock Anchors
*☐ *123 Corrosion*_LC
*☐ *123 Corrosion*_GC
*☐ *123 Corrosion*_SCC
☐ **UIAA 124** – Chocks
☐ **UIAA 125** - Frictional Anchors
☐ **UIAA 126** - Rope Clamps
☐ **UIAA 127** - Pulleys
☐ **UIAA 128** - Energy Absorbing Systems
☐ **UIAA 129** - Braking Devices
☐ **UIAA 130** - Load Sharing Devices
☐ **UIAA 151** - Ice Anchors
☐ **UIAA 152** - Ice Tools
☐ **UIAA 153** - Crampons
☐ **UIAA 154** - Snow Anchors
☐ **UIAA 155** - Snow Pickets
☐ **UIAA 156** - Avalanche Shovels
☐ **UIAA 157** - Avalanche Snow Probes
☐ **UIAA 161** - Crash Pads

Art. 3.3 UIAA Accredited Test Laboratory
A UIAA Accredited Test Laboratory is a laboratory where testing of equipment is done in accordance with the UIAA safety standards for climbing and mountaineering equipment or sub-contracts to another UIAA accredited laboratory where such testing is done. All laboratories accredited by the UIAA (...) are allowed to use the title "UIAA Accredited". A maximum of two (2) representatives from each laboratory have a right to attend the UIAA Safety Commission Plenary meetings but without any voting rights. An accredited laboratory shall re-apply for certification at the end of its three (3) year term.

Peter Muir
UIAA President

Lionel Kiener
UIAA Safety Commission President

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ANNEX E Test report template

UIAA APPROVED
TEST LABORATORY

Climbing and mountaineering equipment tested to the UIAA's equipment standards is recommended by the UIAA for use by climbers and mountaineers.

Laboratory name:

Product references:

Reference of tests reports:

UIAA standards:

☐ **UIAA 101** - Dynamic Ropes
*☐ 101*Water Repellent*
☐ **UIAA 102** - Accessory Cords
☐ **UIAA 103** - Tape
☐ **UIAA 104** - Slings
☐ **UIAA 105** - Harnesses
☐ **UIAA 106** - Helmets
☐ **UIAA 107** - Low Stretch Ropes
☐ **UIAA 109** - Belay Lanyards
☐ **UIAA 121** - Connectors
☐ **UIAA 122** - Pitons
☐ **UIAA 123** - Rock Anchors
*☐ *123 Stress Corrosion Class_*
☐ **UIAA 124** – Chocks
☐ **UIAA 125** - Frictional Anchors
☐ **UIAA 126** - Rope Clamps
☐ **UIAA 127** - Pulleys
☐ **UIAA 128** - Energy Absorbing Systems
☐ **UIAA 129** - Braking Devices
☐ **UIAA 130** - Load Sharing Devices
☐ **UIAA 151** - Ice Anchors
☐ **UIAA 152** - Ice Tools
☐ **UIAA 153** - Crampons
☐ **UIAA 154** - Snow Anchors
☐ **UIAA 155** - Snow Pickets
☐ **UIAA 156** - Avalanche Shovels
☐ **UIAA 157** - Avalanche Snow Probes
☐ **UIAA 161** - Crash Pads

This above mentioned UIAA accredited laboratory certifies that the products (see test report attached) were tested according to the UIAA requirements and test methods.

Date:

Signature and stamp:

UIAA International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
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Last Updated	Remarks
September 20, 2010	Inserted a new laboratory : CSI from Italy
January 14, 2011	Inserted a new laboratory : AUVA from Austria
January 31, 2011	Corrections data of new laboratory : AUVA from Austria
June 1, 2011	Corrections data of new laboratory : Newton from Italy
June 20, 2011	Corrections data of laboratory : Dolomiticert from Italy
August 25, 2011	Corrections data of laboratory : SATRA from UK and Dolomiticert for dynamic ropes
June 04, 2013	Added four new accreditations to VVUU and changed signatures of UIAA President and SAFECOM President
July 5, 2017	‘’23” standards pg.4, *This fee shall be waived for three years from the publishing of a new standard for accreditation to the new standard. Pg. 9,
July 7, 2017	New address: Monbijoustrasse 61, 3000 Bern 14 / New Certificate Template (Annex D)
February 05, 2018	Updated certificates Annex C, D, E
January 19, 2021	Updated 4.1
March 3, 2025	3. Update and clarification of the definitions 4.1 Clarification about test report and test sub-contracting Other minor updates