



21st June 2014

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION - INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

WWW.ABA-SKILLS.COM

ISAC ELECTS NEW MEMBERS

Dear partners, colleagues, experts and friends,

ABA & ISAC continue to develop

Following another successful & busy week of international training, demonstrations & standards workshops during May in Czech Republic members of ISAC drafted new rope access & chainsaw standards which are currently under review & due for further pilot testing during the summer.

International instructors and assessors also participated in LOLER level 1 examinations (without the opportunity of prior training). The trainers from **Latvia, UK & Denmark** were all successful. They were very pleased with the standards & felt

that future candidates would do well to thoroughly prepare for the rope access equipment tests and to update their knowledge of the subject.

Elections were held with the proposal for **President-Mr William Robb** being unanimously accepted & **Vice President-Mr Jens Hansen** also unanimously accepted. Both are founding members, have worked tirelessly for the association & will provide very competent and transparent leadership as ISAC continues to move forward towards achieving ABA's mission.

Further elections resulted in new expert members being approved from the **UK, Latvia, Denmark, Slovenia & Poland**.



ISAC President-William Robb & Vice President-Jens Hansen during discussions.



International trainers discuss rope access standards

ISAC now has skilled experts representing the following countries:

- 🇬🇧 United Kingdom
- 🇮🇪 Ireland
- 🇫🇷 France
- 🇩🇰 Denmark
- 🇮🇹 Italy
- 🇨🇦 Canada
- 🇸🇮 Slovenia
- 🇵🇱 Poland
- 🇱🇻 Latvia
- 🇨🇪 Czech Republic

More information on the following link:

www.aba-skills.com



ABA trainee aerial rescue competition

COMING SOON TRAIN THE 'INTERNATIONAL TRAINER' EVENT

Following the success of the recent instructor skills workshops, due to continuing demand ABA will organise a further event for trainers of chainsaw skills to familiarise with training & assessment techniques recognised and accredited to European & International standards.

Training & assessment will be undertaken by experienced International trainers familiar with ABA technical standards & implementation techniques

applied in various partner countries.

The next events are planned to take place throughout July, August & September. Instructors/Assessors who complete the course and pass the final examinations will be registered & approved by ABA including endorsement of national certification delivered by the successful participants. For further information please contact the Secretariat.



Latvian instructor demonstrates aerial use of a chainsaw

ABA PILOT TESTS NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Pilot testing of new rope access standards including aerial use of chainsaws recently culminated in a tree climbing event based upon international competition rules led by a dedicated team of instructors. At stake were a range of prizes including the top prize of a Stihl chainsaw. Due to the success of this event more trainee events are likely to be planned in the near future following trainee

contributions in ABA standards evaluations.

ISAC President-William Robb commented that following the success of the Leonardo chainsaw project 'it was a natural next step' to develop European &



ABA trainee competition prize winners

International standards for aerial use of chainsaws particularly following recent research which highlights 'an unacceptably high rate of accidents to chainsaw operators working at heights'.

ACTE COMPETENCY TESTING IN CANADA

ABA members Arboriculture Canada Training and Education (ACTE) train over 2000 individuals in Canada each year, with much of that training falling in the domain of chainsaw use and tree falling or rigging.

In 2008, ACTE began to train the power linemen with ATCO Electric in Alberta. The first phase covers basic chainsaw safety and technical cutting/felling skills. ATCO Electric field personnel use chainsaws in two primary operations, the removal of poles

and storm/trouble calls where trees are on the lines. The second phase of this training includes competency testing and certification and builds on phase one and gives ATCO field personnel the advanced skills, techniques, and methods to deal with trees on electrical lines safely and efficiently. This second level of training is intended for emergency responders who have to deal with trees that have fallen onto power lines or other obstacles. Often the risks associated with this environment

are increased as they occur during or after a major storm event.

Assessment includes for example:

- Work plan strategies & risk assessment
- Use of specialist cutting techniques & equipment
- Dealing with snags, hung-up trees & high tension situations

ATCO Electric is to be commended for taking pro-active action in dealing with training in the utility industry; and for working as a

whole, from field personnel to management, to implement a culture of safety.



ABA members ACTE providing utility safety training


ABA
INTERNATIONAL
Newsletter

INVITATION TO THE NEXT ABA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD AT THE NATIONAL FORESTRY SCHOOL IN DENMARK

ABA invites you to the **2nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY** to be held in the **University of Copenhagen-Skovskolen** during **9-11 September 2014** in **Denmark**. Items on the agenda include:

- **Annual report**
- **Proposals for ISAC membership**
- **Development of funding opportunities**
- **New European VET Standards in practice**
- **Training centres network**

And much more....

We look forward to meeting you at the GA soon



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