

Knots and Notes: The Standard Review

By Sarah Padilla, *Technical Director*

Updates from other standards bodies that are relevant to the cordage industry.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

ISO documents out for vote:

- ISO 1140 - Fibre ropes - Polyamide - 3, 4, 8, and 12-strand ropes – Draft: International Standard DIS stage ballot due September 2nd.
- ISO 1141- Fibre ropes - Polyester- 3, 4, 8 and 12-strand ropes – Draft: International Standard DIS stage ballot due September 2nd.
- ISO 1346 - Fibre Ropes - Polypropylene split film, monofilament, and multifilament (PP2) and polypropylene high tenacity multifilament (PP#)-3, 4, 8, and 12- strand ropes – Draft: International Standard DIS stage ballot due September 7th.

ISO documents open for 5-year review:

- ISO 1805 – Fishing nets – Determination of breaking force and knot breaking force of netting yarns – is open for 5-year review

ISO documents recently approved to be published:

- ISO 10547 – Polyester fibre ropes – Double braid construction
- ISO 10554 – Polyamide fibre ropes – Double braid construction
- ISO 10556 – Fibre ropes of polyester/polyolefin dual fibers
- ISO 10572 – Mixed polyolefin fibre ropes

ISO documents being drafted:

- ISO 1968 - Fibre ropes and cordage - Vocabulary

In light of the current global situation regarding COVID-19, ISO has decided that all ISO governance and technical meetings planned until 31 October 2020 must be held virtually or postponed until after that date. <https://www.iso.org/covid-19.html>

The European Commission's Machinery Directive is under official review. There have been two official workgroup meetings with experts and national representatives. The workgroup has asked for detailed feedback on the proposals. Prepared slides are available on the Cordage Institute's members only section of the [CI website](#). The task group is looking for detailed feedback. If you would like to give feedback, please contact the CI ISO subcommittee chair or sarah@ropecord.com.

At the next meeting, the group will discuss the following key topics:

- More focus on system design (less strength), introduction of risk assessment
- Introduction of installer and lift plan
- Harmonized standards that need to be updated

Take a look at first draft of NFPA 2500; it is open for public comment until October 9, 2020. This document is a consolidation of several documents including NFPA 1983- Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services. Once on the [NFPA 2500 page](#), select the link “Submit a Public Comment” to begin the process. You will be asked to sign-in or create a free online account with NFPA before using this system. For any questions on submitting comment, a chat feature is available.

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)

ASTM new work items:

- [ASTM D3025](#) Standard Practice for Standardizing Cotton Fiber Test Results by Use of Calibration Cotton Standards- periodic review identified several updates needed.
- ASTM D3217 Standard Test Methods for Breaking Tenacity of Manufactured Textile Fibers in Loop or Knot Configurations – periodic review.
- [ASTM D7642](#) - Standard Practice for Establishment of Calibration Cottons for Cotton Classification Instruments- periodic review identified several updates needed.
- ASTM F2959 Standard Practice for Aerial Adventure Courses will be revised to include Via Ferrata variations. First steps will be to add design regulations for Via Ferrata. CEN Technical Committee is allowing/endorsing the reference to EN 16869 design requirements.

ASTM documents recently published:

- [ASTM D1776](#) - Standard Practice for Condition and Testing Textiles updated Table 1 fabrics. Polyamide and polyester tire cords will have to be updated next review.
- [ASTM D2259](#) - Standard Test Method for Shrinkage of Yarns republished recently. This method tests yarn for shrinkage in boiling water, saturated steam, dry heat or solvents.
- [ASTM D2494](#) - Standard Test Method for Commercial Mass of a Shipment of Yarn – republished with minor editorial updates.
- [ASTM D3108](#) - Standard Test Method for Coefficient of Friction, Yarn to Solid Material - republished with only minor editorial corrections.
- [ASTM D3412](#) - Standard Test Method for Coefficient of Friction, Yarn to Yarn republished with minor editorial improvements.
- [ASTM D7269](#) - Standard Test Methods for Tensile Testing of Aramid Yarns - General updates were made.
- [ASTM E4](#)- Standard Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines saw several clarifications of definitions in the most recent revision. New requirements are included for exercising the test machine and elastic force measuring instrument.
- [ASTM E2309](#) - Standard Practices for Verification of Displacement Measuring Devices Used in Material Testing Machines saw a clarification of data use for repeatability, cleaning up of definitions and usage in document, and an improved traceability statement.
- [ASTM F1774](#) - Standard Specification for Climbing and Mountaineering Carabiners. This document was harmonized with F1956 Standard Specification for Rescue Carabiners.
- [ASTM F1956](#) - Standard Specification for Rescue Carabiners has had work done to harmonize this standard with F1774- Standard Specification for Climbing and Mountaineering Carabiners. ASTM has removed non-locking carabiners from the rescue carabiner standard.
- [ASTM G166](#) - Standard Guide for Statistical Analysis of Service Life Data saw minor editorial updates in the most recent review.

ASTM has announced that in light of COVID-19 and ongoing safety concerns for members and staff, ASTM International announced today that all scheduled in person Committee Weeks have been canceled through the end of 2020.

As announced in February 2019, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be implementing mandatory gear marking to all non-tended fixed gear fisheries starting in 2020 in Eastern Canada. The Gulf, Maritimes, Newfoundland & Labrador, and Quebec Regions are hereby notifying fish harvesters in Eastern Canada of the gear marking requirements that will apply. [Find out more here.](#)

WSTDA documents recently published:

- WSTDA T-5 – Recommended Standard Specification for Interior Van Securement Devices – this is a brand-new standard
- WSTDA RS-1 – Recommended Standard for Synthetic Polyester Roundslings – recently revised
- WSTDA RS-2 – Recommended Standard Operating, Care and Inspection Manual for Synthetic Polyester Roundslings – recently revised