Knots & Notes:
Standards Update

By Sarah Padilla, CI Technical Director

Updates from the Cordage Institute Standards subcommittees on how things are progressing since the last newsletter.

Standards approved for publish:

- CI-1401 – Guideline: Recommended Safety Practices for Use of Fiber Rope
- CI-2200 – Standard: Performance and Test Methods for Arborist Climbing Rope

Standards proposed for approval by the Board:

- CI-2003- Comparative Reference: Fibers for Cable, Cordage, Rope and Twine

Standards out for external ballot:

- CI-1503: Standard Test Method for Yarn-On-Yarn Abrasion – ballot will be sent in September.

Standards out for internal ballot:

- CI-1502 – Test Methods for Reduced Recoil Risk Rope – ballot will be sent in September.
- CI-2013 – Guideline: Use and Need of Overlay Finishes on Synthetic Fibers and Ropes – ballot due Sept 12, 2019.
- CI-2015 – Guideline: Abrasion Testing Guidelines – ballot due Sept 25, 2019.

Document Help:

- The Guidelines committee is looking for the following pictures to turn black and white and include in the CI-2001 - Guideline: Inspection and Retirement Criteria for Fiber Rope. Please forward them to Sarah@ropecord.com.

    - Broken, powdered, or matted filaments on the core of a jacketed or kermantle rope
    - Main strands on a braided rope pulled out of position so that they cannot be worked back into the rope to conform to the original structure
    - Elongation or excessive wear of termination eyes or clevises
    - Bent termination pins
    - Termination with post manufacture modification (ie welding, cutting, etc)
    - Lay length of a braid has changed more than +/-15% from initial loading conditions

Subcommittee Updates:

- **OCIMF MEG4 Task Group:** This subcommittee has shifted its scope. While writing the document, it focused on supporting OCIMF and collecting input from Cordage Institute members. MEG 4 was released almost a year ago and thus rope users and manufacturers are starting to work with the document. Over that time, several issues have arisen in the implementation of the new guidelines. The subcommittee

aims to shift the focus of this group on to troubleshooting these implementation issues.

Eurocord has started a task group as well with a similar scope. We will be working to coordinate clarifications to implementation issues where appropriate with them.

If you are interested in joining the group, please let us know. Next steps will be collecting feedback and concerns. If you are aware of feedback or concerns, please forward on to me at info@ropecord.com for compiling. **Please submit feedback by** <u>August 30, 2019.</u>

- **CIRTS Round Robin:** Sample rope has been sent to the participating labs. Labs have until May 2020 to finish testing. For more information, contact Sarah@ropecord.com.

- **EU-US Regulatory Subcommittee:** In April, Eurocord and the Cordage Institute submitted a proposal in response to a DG Trade request prompted by an agreement from the President of the EU and President of the US initiated the previous summer. Our joint proposal highlighted some ways to reduce a handful of sling standards redundancies/divergences across the two continents as a way to lessen trade barriers. On July 9, the European Commission held a summit to review and discuss the 62 civil stakeholders' proposals. These proposals were from a variety of industries, not just ropes/cords/textiles/slings. Philippe Verschueren (Eurocord) and Loet Hoppe (I-Coats) were in attendance. The Commission supports the existing regulatory structure in place; mandatory use of CEN in Europe, when available, and mandatory use of OSHA or voluntary use of ANSI in the US. According to the Vienna agreement, ISO is supposed to stand above all other documents, but permission would still have to be requested of CEN to supersede specific documents. Most of the attention was placed on cooperative crafting of potential future documents, specifically in emerging technology sectors – automated vehicles, robotics, additive manufacture, IOT, as well as pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and cyber security. More information can be found here. The subcommittee will be circulating a survey shortly to decide on its next steps.