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Exponent Ropes Course Assistant Certificate Standards Version 2023

This document specifies the competences required to qualify for the Exponent
Ropes Course Assistant Certificate.

Exponent *Ropes Course Assistant* Certification
verifies the competences required for
Level 1, 2 & 3 Supervision as defined by EN 15567-2, section 3.5, 3.6 & 3.7
and the duties of an **Instructor**, as defined by EN 15567-2, section 3.1.

Exponent hands a ***Ropes Course Assistant certificate*** to individuals who demonstrated the technical skills and safety attitude required to conduct activities on low and high ropes course elements

- From the ground or a safeguarded platform (Collective Protective Equipment),
- Under supervision of a *Ropes Course Rescuer* responsible for performing all interventions that require the use of personal safety equipment, including high element rope evacuations, whenever needed.

The Exponent *Ropes Course Assistant* certificate is valid for **specified types of elements**, including low elements and two or more of the following high element categories:

1. Climbs: elements such as the Giant Ladder, Vertical Labyrinth, the Pamper Pole or a Climbing Wall, with top-rope belay.
2. Traverses: elements such as the Balance Beam or the Burma Bridge, with top-rope or self-belay across the element.
3. Drops: elements such as the Pamper Pole, Giant Swing or Zipline, requiring a specific set-up and involving a top-rope or self-belay to catch an initial fall.
4. Special elements: elements such as the rappel, requiring a specific set-up and belay.

Exponent hands **site-specific and multi-course certificates**. The former are valid on one specific ropes course only. The latter are valid for the specified types of elements on any ropes course built according to the EN 15567-1.

The Exponent *Ropes Course Assistant* certificate is granted upon demonstration of the required competences during a 2-day training that consists of the following three parts:

1. Low elements and spotting:

- Setting up the elements, including 'routine visual check' ('pre-flight check')
- Risk-assessment and accident prevention in activities on low elements
- Belaying and supervising others belaying
 - Spotting, including the terms of EN 15567-1, section 4.3.5.2.
 - Giving and monitoring safety instructions, including instruction and supervision of spotting
- Clearing the course and storing equipment
 - Inspecting gear
 - Filling out logs and reporting incidents

2. Knots:

Ability to correctly tie the following knots in different situations and under time pressure (30" to 45"):

- Figure-8 and variations
- Munter Hitch and lock
- Mule Knot
- Stoppers Knot

Ability to correctly identify the above knots and recognise whether or not they are tied correctly.

3. High elements

The trainee experiences the different types of high elements in order to develop 'first-hand' understanding of critical aspects of supervising the activities.

- Setting up specified types of high elements, including 'routine visual checks' ('pre-flight checks')
- Belaying and supervising others belaying (levels 1,2 and 3)
 - Setting up belay system and tying in climbers and belayers
 - Performing visual and hands-on checks
 - Using and enforcing the use of climbing commands
 - Belaying by means of a Munter Hitch and/or approved (self-locking) belay devices
- Clearing the course and storing equipment
 - Coiling ropes
 - Inspecting gear
 - Filling out logs and reporting incidents
- Evaluating the urgency in problem situations with helpless participants and/or colleagues on a high element:
 - Check and assemble a rescue kit
 - Assessing problem situations and intervening with appropriate safety and urgency

The Exponent *Ropes Course Assistant* certificate requires awareness of European Standards EN 15567-1 and EN 15567-2 re ropes course construction and operation to the extent that these are relevant to practice as a *Ropes Course Assistant*.

THE EXPONENT *ROPES COURSE ASSISTANT* CERTIFICATE REQUIRES ACTIVE AND PROFICIENT PARTICIPATION IN ALL PROGRAM COMPONENTS.

Exponent certification is not based on a weighed sum of the above components but on a general evaluation of the required skills, attitude and knowledge to safely conduct activities on the specified elements and/or ropes courses without supervision.

The Exponent *Ropes Course Assistant* certificate is valid for 3 years.