



29 March 2017

ITCC Update – Approval for use of ISC’s D4 & D5

At ISA, we take great care to ensure that any equipment approved for ISA TCCs is meeting or exceeding industry standards and is approved for use in tree care. Sometimes, however, the testing standards that are available to us don’t quite align with equipment used in tree care. This is the case with the *EN12841: Personal fall protection equipment. Rope access systems. Rope adjustment devices* standard.

The EN12841 standard notes three different types of rope adjustment devices:

- Type A: safety line adjustment device
- Type B: working line ascender
- Type C: working line descender

The International Safety Components (ISC) D4 and D5 have been tested to Type C, allowing “the user to achieve a controlled downward motion and a stop, with hands off, anywhere on the working line.” Type C rope adjustment devices, according to this standard, are intended to always be used in conjunction with a type A device. This is where tree work differs from standard on-rope industries, in that arborists do not normally work with a secondary safety line at all times.

ISA has previously approved divergence from the standard, as is the case with the Petzl Rig and I’D. Similarly, with approval for use from the manufacturer, ISA was prepared to do the same in this case.

ISA received a letter from ISC authorizing single-line use of the D4 and D5 without a secondary safety line and Type A backup device.

Excerpts from ISC’s approval letter:

“The standard EN12841, because it is related to Rope Access, dictates that a second line/rope, with a backup device, MUST be used when used in EN12841 type C device – this is why it appears in our UIM. However, the testing of the device is conducted without these backup units in place. The requirement of a second line with a backup device is a requirement of the rope access techniques, rather than due to any deficiency of the product.”

“ISC sanction the use of the D4 and D5 for the application (tree climbing) despite not being used with a backup device, on a backup line.”

Based on this information, ISA is pleased to approve use of the D4 and D5 in ISA tree climbing championships, effective immediately.

For more information about the ISC D4 and D5:

D4: <http://www.iscwales.com/Products/Descenders/RP880-D4-Work-Rescue-Descender/16614/>

D5: <http://www.iscwales.com/Products/Descenders/RP885-D5-WorkRescue-Descender/18130/>