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ITCC Gear Inspection Expectations

Safety is a priority for ISA. Thank you to the committee volunteers and numerous local chapter volunteers who are dedicated to ensuring ISA events run safely. Occasionally there is some confusion on-site as to what documentation a competitor needs to provide in order to introduce new gear for use in competition.

In the ITCC Rule Book, rule 2.2.1 reads, “all equipment used must be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard unless otherwise specified in this document and shall reflect best practices. Equipment must be considered appropriate for use in tree climbing. If equipment is not clearly labeled to provide an industry standard mark, it is the user’s responsibility to provide written evidence in English, to be retained by the Head Judge, that the equipment is manufactured to meet the accepted standard for that piece of equipment and its application.”

When introducing new equipment into ISA tree climbing competitions, certain parameters must be met to satisfy Rule 2.2.1. All equipment must be stamped with the applicable equipment standard (e.g., ANSI, ASTM, CE) per that product category (e.g., ropes, harnesses, helmets). If the item is not stamped or otherwise marked by the manufacturer, sufficient documentation must be provided by the manufacturer to prove that proper testing has been conducted. The equipment must come with a certificate of conformity to verify that the manufacturer has conducted tests as outlined by the testing standards.

To better prepare yourself for gear inspection not only at ITCC but your local events, review the [What to expect during gear inspection](#) document found on the ITCC website.