

ROPE ACCESS SITES AND SUPERVISION

Any site where rope access will be used for the purpose of an access method or as a method to perform a task, the site must be supervised by a competent rope access supervisor. The requirements for rope access work is given in ISO 22846 - 1/2: 2012. In this document we will address the most frequently asked question in rope access: Which level of rope access do I need in order to supervise my site?

The definition of a competent person as per ISO 22846-2 is a:

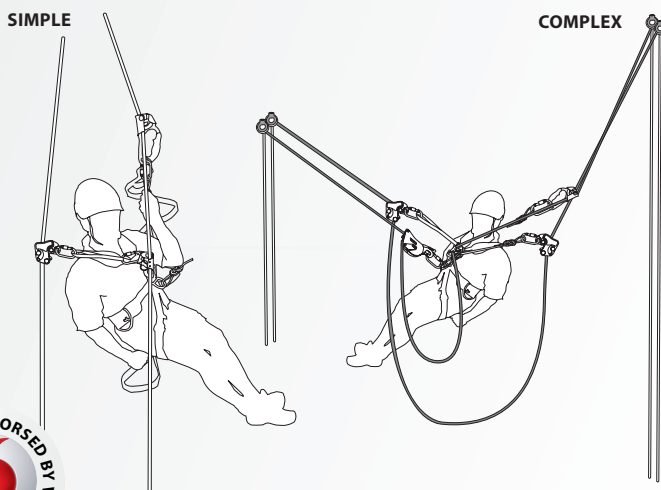
“designated person suitably trained or qualified by knowledge and practical experience to enable the required task or tasks to be carried out properly.”

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT LEVELS (TYPES) OF COMPETENCY IN ROPE ACCESS?

- **Level 1** - A person that can perform rope access manoeuvres, as well as a basic rope access rescue, and who is in possession of a valid Rope Access Level 1 certificate. He/she can only perform rope access under direct supervision of a level 2 or 3.
- **Level 2** - A person that can perform rope access manoeuvres, as well as a set of intermediate rope access rescues, and who is in possession of a valid Rope Access Level 2 certificate. This person can supervise a simple site with prior approval from a formally appointed Level 3. He/she is typically seen as an assistant site supervisor.
- **Level 3** - A person that can perform rope access manoeuvres, as well as a set of advanced rope access rescues, and who is in possession of a valid Rope Access Level 3 certificate. Must complete site establishment and can supervise any site (simple and/or complex).



It is essential that a rope access supervisor has the relevant experience and competence to identify all rope access related fall hazards and then select and implement the correct controls as per the fall protection plan, equipment safe use requirements and rope access procedures. This includes identifying the expected rescue scenario's during the task and the associated rescue procedure, kit requirements and competency levels.



DIFFERENT SITE CLASSIFICATIONS AND HOW TO IDENTIFY EACH AS PER ISO 22846-2:

There are two general classifications of rope access worksites:

- **Simple:** any rope access worksite unaffected by any adjacent work or trades; where the anchor line follows a simple path from anchor point to the ground or platform level, where there is no requirement to pass knots or deviations greater than 20° and where rescues can be carried out straight to ground or platform level. For example: straight drops.
- **Complex:** any rope access work site where the requirements for a simple worksite cannot be met. This can be where more advanced or complex systems or techniques are required. For example: using re-anchors or significant increase in technique, e.g. secondary techniques are needed, especially for rescue, because a single descent to the ground is not possible.