NOTICE

Lock Out/Tag Out Procedures for Working in and around Passenger Ropeways

Notice

Alberta Work Safe has indicated that the provisions in CSA Z98 Appendix B "Procedures For Work Carriers" does not meet the requirements of the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Regulations (2009: Part 15). If a compliance inspector observes an operation that requires the equipment to be "locked out" or an incident were to occur as a result of inadequate lock out procedures the non-compliance of the Alberta OH&S regulations could result in a stop-work order.

It is the intent of the Alberta Safety Codes Council – Passenger Ropeways Technical Committee to bring this potential non-conformance issue to the owner/operators in Alberta.

Background

The Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code (2009: Part 15) requires that all sources of energy that could cause a worker injury must be locked out before being worked in or on. The use of permissive lock outs (such as PLC interlocks, bypasses or jumpers) may require additional procedures, formalized training with the workers and a review of those processes by Alberta Government OH&S policy to ensure the potential energy is adequately isolated and meets compliance with the OH&S Act, Regulation and Code.

For passenger ropeways, there are certain areas where physically locking out a potential energy source is not possible due to the location or access of the work space which can be a long way from the lock out point.

Many passenger ropeway operators have procedures in place to address lock outs while working on passenger ropeways, but would be in noncompliance to the Alberta OH&S regulations.

Suggested Solutions

Due to the unique operating parameters of a passenger ropeway, Alberta OH&S can review your procedures and offer an "Acceptance". This acceptance is to review an alternative approach(s) to protect the health and safety of workers.

The person proposing an alternative must provide sufficient rationale and supporting information to demonstrate the level of health and safety that will be achieved if the alternative approach is used.
Additional information on the Acceptance process can be found at: http://work.alberta.ca/documents/OHS-bulletin-LI030.pdf.

Other Considerations

- Lock out procedures for work being completed away from the energy sources.
- Lock out provisions for main drives, auxiliary and planetary drive systems, if so installed.
- Lock out procedures for manual rope evacuations.
- Lock out procedures of not only the main rope way drive system, but auxiliary and planetary drives if so installed.

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For further information please call 1-866-421-6929, or visit www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca.

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- Isolation of an energy isolating deice that includes:
  - By individual,
  - By a group, or
  - By a complex group process.
- "Locking" the isolation by ensuring that the energy-isolating device and all relevant components are physically secured to prevent the release of energy that could cause inadvertent movement or activation. Access to the securing device must be properly managed.
- Once the work activity has been completed, returning the system to operation by removing any securing devices, verifying that no worker is in danger, and releasing the energy-isolating device.

References

1. Part 15 of the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code (2009) – Explanation Guide: http://work.alberta.ca/documents/WHS-LEG_ohsc_p15.pdf
2. Alberta Work Safe Bulletin LI030 - Occupational Health and Safety Acceptances: http://work.alberta.ca/documents/OHS-bulletin-LI030.pdf
3. CSA Z99 (2007) Appendix B "Procedures for Work Carriers"