



Designation: F2959 – 23a

Standard Practice for Aerial Adventure Courses¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice establishes criteria for the Design, Manufacture, Installation, Operation, Maintenance, Auditing and Major Modification of Aerial Adventure Courses.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.3 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- E543** Specification for Agencies Performing Nondestructive Testing
- F747** Terminology Relating to Amusement Rides and Devices
- F770** Practice for Ownership, Operation, Maintenance, and Inspection of Amusement Rides and Devices
- F1159** Practice for Design of Amusement Rides and Devices that are Outside the Purview of Other F24 Design Standards
- F1193** Practice for Quality, Manufacture, and Construction of Amusement Rides and Devices
- F1772** Specification for Harnesses for Rescue and Sport Activities

F1950 Specification for Physical Information to be Transferred With Used Amusement Rides and Devices (Withdrawn 2008)³

F1957 Test Method for Composite Foam Hardness-Durometer Hardness

F2137 Practice for Measuring the Dynamic Characteristics of Amusement Rides and Devices

F2291 Practice for Design of Amusement Rides and Devices

F2375 Practice for Design, Manufacture, Installation and Testing of Climbing Nets and Netting/Mesh used in Amusement Rides, Devices, Play Areas and Attractions

F2974 Practice for Auditing Amusement Rides and Devices

2.2 ANSI Standards:⁴

ANSI B77 Passenger Ropeways - Aerial Tramways, Aerial Lifts, Surface Lifts, Tows and Conveyors - Safety Requirements

ANSI Z359 Fall Protection Code

2.3 CDC (Center for Disease Control) Growth Charts:⁵

CDC Basic Body Measurements

2.4 European Standard:⁶

EN 280 Mobile elevating work platforms - Design calculations - Stability criteria - Construction - Safety - Examinations and tests

EN 12277 Mountaineering equipment - Harnesses - Safety requirements and test methods

2.5 NFPA Standard:⁷

NFPA 1983 Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services

2.6 SAE Standard:⁸

SAE J833 Human Physical Dimensions

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F24.61 on Adventure Attractions.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁵ Available from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1600 Clifton Rd., Atlanta, GA 30329-4027, <http://www.cdc.gov> [Search: anthropometrics].

⁶ Available from European Committee for Standardization (CEN), Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium, <http://www.cen.eu>.

⁷ Available from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471, <http://www.nfpa.org>.

⁸ Available from SAE International (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Dr., Warrendale, PA 15096, <http://www.sae.org>.

2.7 *UIAA Standard:*⁹

UIAA 105 Mountaineering and Climbing Equipment: Harnesses

3. Terminology

3.1 Terminology shall be in accordance with Terminology **F747**.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *aerial trekking course, n*—self-guided aerial adventure course containing elements intended to be obstacles.

3.2.2 *canopy tour, n*—aerial adventure course which provides patron access to the canopy of a forest.

3.2.3 *challenge course, n*—guided aerial adventure course containing elements intended to be obstacles.

3.2.4 *ropes course, n*—synonym for a challenge course.

3.2.5 *zip line, n*—an aerial adventure course element over an open span consisting of an inclined wire or fiber rope on which harnessed patron(s) suspended from a pulley or trolley are able to traverse with the primary force for propulsion being gravity.

3.3 *Abbreviations:*

3.3.1 *AAC, n*—aerial adventure course

3.3.2 *PSE, n*—personal safety equipment

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The rationale for developing a separate standard practice for Aerial Adventure Courses is based on the unique functional, operational and patron participation requirements when compared to amusement rides and devices.

4.2 The purpose of this practice is to provide designers, manufacturers, constructors, system integrators, owners/operators, and auditors with criteria and references for use in the design, manufacture, construction, installation, integration, operation, maintenance, auditing, and major modification of Aerial Adventure Courses.

4.3 Unless this practice expressly provides otherwise in a particular provision, the term “Aerial Adventure Course” is to be used in place of “Amusement Rides and Devices” herein.

5. Ownership, Operation, Maintenance, Inspection, and Training Requirements

5.1 Ownership, operation, maintenance, inspection, and training requirements for aerial adventure courses shall be in accordance with Practice **F770**, and the exceptions and inclusions unique to aerial adventure courses. For convenience, all of these inclusions and exceptions have been incorporated into Practice **F770** and are shown below.

5.2 Changes to common terms in Practice **F770-15** are:

5.2.1 Replace the term “amusement rides and devices” with “aerial adventure courses,”

5.2.2 Replace the terms “amusement ride or device” or “ride or device” with “aerial adventure course,”

5.2.3 Replace the term “ride analysis” with “device analysis,”

5.2.4 Replace the term “passenger” with “patron,”

5.2.5 Replace the term “riders” with “patrons,” and

5.2.6 Replace the term “rider” with “patron.”

5.3 *Significance and Use*—The purpose of this practice is to delineate information and to establish procedures for the operation, maintenance, inspection, and training of aerial adventure courses.

5.4 *Owner/Operator’s Responsibility:*

5.4.1 The owner/operator shall develop a program with necessary tasks and training to operate, maintain, and inspect the aerial adventure course, as designed. The program shall include, but not be limited to:

5.4.1.1 An operations program as outlined in **5.5**,

5.4.1.2 A maintenance program as outlined in **5.6**,

5.4.1.3 An inspection program as outlined in **5.7**, and

5.4.1.4 A training program as outlined in **5.8**.

5.5 *Operations Program:*

5.5.1 *Operating Document*—Each owner/operator shall prepare an operating document for each aerial adventure course or element based on the recommended instructions and specifications provided by the manufacturer. This operating document shall be made available to each aerial adventure course operator and attendant. The operating document shall include, but not be limited to:

5.5.1.1 Specific operation policies and procedures with pertinent information from the manufacturer’s instructions, including, but not limited to:

(1) Description of the aerial adventure course operation;

(2) Specific duties of the assigned operator(s) and attendant(s) position(s) of the aerial adventure course;

(3) General safety procedures;

(4) Instructions on specific procedures to follow in the event of unusual conditions or an interruption of operation, including an evacuation plan outlined in **5.5.2**;

(5) Additional instructions from the owner/operator; and

(6) The owner/operator shall also consider environmental condition(s) including, but not limited to, wind, rain, ice, and lightning when developing operating procedures.

5.5.1.2 Specific emergency procedures in the event of an abnormal condition or interruption in service.

5.5.2 *Evacuation Plan*—The owner/operator shall have and maintain an evacuation plan for each aerial adventure course.

5.5.2.1 The owner/operator shall consider:

(1) Standard load/unload area evacuations are the preferred method;

(2) Aerial adventure course manufacturer’s recommendations;

(3) Conditions of the environment that could impact an evacuation;

(4) Personnel responsible for performing an evacuation;

(5) Notification and cooperation with the outside agencies and entities intended to participate in an evacuation;

(6) Identification and location of equipment to support an evacuation;

⁹ Available from International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA), 61 Postfach CH-3000 Bern 23 Switzerland, <http://www.theuiaa.org/index.php>.