



**Press Release –
for immediate use**

NEW INTERNATIONAL STANDARD PLANNED FOR ROPE ACCESS WORK ON WIND TURBINES

IRATA International, the Industrial Rope Access Trade Association, has announced plans to prepare and issue a new standard for this important sector. Now that its International Code of Practice (ICOP) is well established around the world and comprehensive in its coverage, IRATA has moved on to create what it believes will be a valuable and globally deployed standard for this work in which its rope access procedures and techniques are already enjoying much success whilst maintaining the remarkable safe working record that the Association has enjoyed from its inception.

The new standard will aim to give clear guidance to rope access operators and trainers, specifiers, health and safety personnel, turbine designers and manufacturers and all those seeking advice on the use of rope access in this sector. An international group of experts, including those associated with the major renewable companies and associations, has begun the preparation of this document which is scheduled for publication in late summer 2011.

The document will include in its coverage: typical access tasks and methods, team sizes and levels of supervision, training requirements, specific hazards and risk assessments, selection of anchorages, rescue and evacuation, access rigging methods, working with non-rope access personnel, etc.

Quotes for Publication:

Karl Raby, Chairman, IRATA – ‘IRATA’s international presence in the access sector affords it the opportunity to prepare this document using its broad-based knowledge and unrivalled safe working record. IRATA personnel have been involved in wind energy since its early days and are participating in its international development.’

Graham Burnett, Immediate Past Chairman – ‘Rope access has been used safely, cost effectively and successfully since the introduction of the very first of the mass-produced turbines in the 1980s. This specific guidance sees IRATA applying its international responsibility to offer in one document the necessary expert advice on this subject for the benefit of all in the sector.’

Roderick Dymott, Chief Executive Officer – ‘IRATA is aware that wind power has not enjoyed a trouble-free evolution due, in part, to the race to be part of its remarkable development. It is vital that international guidance is available and followed; IRATA’s unblemished record of safe working and applying sound workplace procedures sees it well placed to prepare this authoritative document.’

*The IRATA International Code of Practice can be downloaded from
<http://www.irata.org/publications.htm>*

If you wish to be advised of the publication of the IRATA Wind Power document please send your request and contact details to rod.dymott@irata.org