



C.I.R.T.S. Procedures and Guidelines

Original: June 2016

Revised: June 2022

C.I.R.T.S.

(Committee for International Rope Testing Standards)

Background

The industry of rope manufacturing is becoming increasingly globalized. The industries we serve have also become increasingly globalized through acquisition and expansion. While European and North American companies, members of Eurocord or Cordage Institute, have become more international in their scope, Asian companies are also expanding into other parts of the world. These market dynamics, as well as the increasing growth of high performance synthetics, have created new challenges for users to effectively evaluate specifications and performance claims and for industry manufacturers to present their products effectively. Universally accepted test standards, used by all manufacturers to validate product specifications and performance, will help alleviate these issues. They could provide users with standardized methods for evaluating products to make more effective purchasing decisions, provide association manufacturers with a stronger way to differentiate themselves from non-complying manufacturers, and increase the value of our associations to the global industry. For this reason, Tony Bon (Samson) and Koen Van Goethem (I-Coats) sponsored the creation of C.I.R.T.S. on the 19th of January 2016.

Mission Statement

To identify, develop and promote unified test standards for evaluating high performance rope (HPR) specifications and performance attributes. This will be achieved through active engagement with both Eurocord and The Cordage Institute and the promotion of newly developed test method standards (or Guidelines) to 3rd party groups.

Functional Goals:

- Give guidance towards design of new standards
 - Testing Breaking Strength: alignment (ISO 2307); CI 1500;
 - HMPE lifting; ASME B30.9
 - Other forms of degradation (i.e. fatigue, thermal, mechanical, etc)
- Give rational motivation towards decision on improvements of existing standards
- Work in conjunction with and provide recommendations to certifying bodies and standards organizations
 - DNV-GL, ABS, BV, OCIMF, ISO
- Provide transparency
- Reference for High Performance Rope standard
- CIRTS documents will be approved by the board of CI and Eurocord
- Existing team are delegates of ISO representing their countries and able to submit these documents after approval of the board.

Content:

- Guidelines give recommendations towards test set-up and parameter choice in HPR testing
- Based on engineering principles
- Requirements are as important a boundary conditions
- Test should result in evidence to support argumentation to prove a claim made for the HPR:
 - Relevant
 - Unambiguous / Complete
- Claims are made on performance of rope
 - Application specific
 - Functionality
 - Commercial value (ISO compensates efforts made by driving delegates)
- Testing may be required to support method development but should be on lowest possible level to substantiate conclusions.
- Budget for these tests needs to be acquired within CI and Eurocord

Organization

- **Steering Committee**

CIRTS will be governed by a steering committee made up of Cordage Institute and Eurocord board members appointed by the boards. Steering committee members are drawn from executive-level staff from high performance rope manufacturers and representatives of international industry suppliers, and may be revised from time to time as approved by the boards of Eurocord and CI. The current steering committee is:

- Otto Grabandt (Teijin)
- José Gramaxo (WireCo/Lankhorst)
- Pieter Jan Lemstra (DSM Dyneema)
- Janpeter Horn (Herzog)
- Jim Mc Taggart (Cortland)
- Florian Teufelberger (Teufelberger)
- Koen Van Goethem (I-Coats)
- Christian Rheault (Samson)
- Bill Putnam (Yale Cordage)

- **Work Group**

The CIRTS Work Group will consist of 9 members, including a Chair and Vice-Chair.

- In order to ensure the most effective makeup of the committee, members are drawn from rope and fiber manufacturers engaged in international sales and activities, with a mix of both technical and commercial experience.
- Members are appointed by the Steering Committee for a term of 2 years and with a possibility of renewal, consisting of the following:
 - 2 – 3 members from Europe-based manufacturers of HP ropes
 - 2 – 3 members from US-based manufacturers of HP ropes
 - 2 – 3 members of major materials suppliers to the international industry
- Candidates can send their application to any member of the steering committee.
- Members may send alternates to replace them, if they are not available
- Technical Directors from Eurocord and CI are invited.
- Technical chairs from Eurocord and/or Cordage Institute technical workgroups can be invited to provide support and input based on work being done in their respective workgroups.
- The Chair and Vice Chair are appointed by the Workgroup for a term of 2 years and with a possibility of renewal

- The Current workgroup and actual alternates (2020 – 2022) are:
 - Chair: Danielle Stenvers / Alternate: tbd (Samson)
 - Vice Chair: Loet Hoppe (I-Coats)
 - Marc Eijssen / Alternate: Bill Fronzaglia (DSM Dyneema)
 - Eduardo Dourado / Alternate: Nate Engler (Wireco)
 - Brian Zall / Alternate: Thanasis Varnava (Cortland)
 - Huib Kwint / Alternate: Amy Jenkins (Teijin)
 - Susanna Schiemer / Alternate: Stephen Parola (Teufelberger)
 - Matt Hume / (Yale Cordage)
 - Thomas Caradec /Alternate: Veronika Aspelund (Wilhelmsen)

- **Sponsors**

José Gramaxo and Koen van Goethem will act as sponsors to provide guidance related to scope of activities, provide feedback to the Boards, assist in developing and revising Committee guidelines as appropriate, and communicating to Eurocord and CI regarding the Committee mission, scope, structure, goals and procedures.

- **Work Approval Procedures**

- The Workgroup will solicit feedback directly from the chair of technical committees of CI and/or Eurocord who may be charged with similar testing standards to reconcile any differences. Should a conflict arise between the CIRTS work and a CI or Eurocord Committee, this should be discussed with the respective committee chair and technical director.
- The Work Group will submit recommended standards and guidelines to the Steering Committee, to the Presidents and Technical Directors of Eurocord and Cordage Institute. The Steering Committee, Presidents and Technical Directors will solicit feedback as they think appropriate and submit to the Work Group within 2 weeks for their consideration. Once this feedback is incorporated, the Workgroup will proceed with submission to the appropriate organizations (e.g. ISO, OCIMF) as being representative of the joint Eurocord and Cordage Institutes.

- **Meetings and minutes:**

- Meetings will be held as needed but at a minimum of 3 per year.
- Meeting schedules will be coordinated by the Work Group Chair at locations which will ensure a maximum attendance while minimizing travel requirements, and may be done via teleconference.
- Meetings will be open to any Eurocord and Cordage Institute members who wish to attend to observe. In the interest of meeting efficiency and Work Group deadlines and time constraints, observing attendees will be asked to communicate any feedback or concerns directly to the Chair post-meeting.
- The Chair and Vice Chair will make efforts to coordinate with existing CI and Eurocord technical groups to ensure a minimum of duplication of work. It is not intended that the Work Group replace or supersede in any way the work being done by existing committees, but instead provide a joint, coordinated approach to developing unified test standards.
- All meeting minutes will be distributed to the Steering Committee and to the technical directors of Eurocord and CI in order to forward it to all members of the Technical Committees.