



## **Challenge Course Regulations in Eastern Europe**

ACCT International Conference, Feb 21-25, 2024

Jeff Baierlein, Director, Viristar

viristar.com

viristar.com/acct-2024

















- Ziplining
- Mountaineering
- Skiing
- Parasailing
- Canyoning
- Rafting
- Caving





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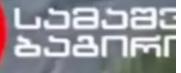


ავარი | საქართველო | ეკონომიკა/ბიზნესი | უცხოეთი | საზოგადოება | კულტურა | სამება | მოსაზრებებ ღერები | ახალი ამბები | ბოლო ამბები | გამოკითხვები | ქვიზები | ბლოგები | ყველა სტატია | ყველა ვიდეო In Aragvi, 1 tourist died during rafting



### 30cmn

### RESCUE HELICOPTER CRASH IN GEORGIA 💏 29.07.2022





"Reasonable regulations are needed... Prohibition is wrong " - Paragliding Federation



*Eight people have died in a crash on July 29 in Gudauri while a pilot and tourist crashed while a border helicopter crashed. July 30 has been declared a day of mourning in the country. Interior Minister Vakhtang Gomelauri spoke about the tragic story Said, That flights with paraplan are a problem and a job of tightening regulations, or banning them altogether.* 

# **Geopolitical Context**



## 2008 invasion and occupation by Russia



maps: Gigi Kadagishvili

# Research

Middleincome country



Antiregulation

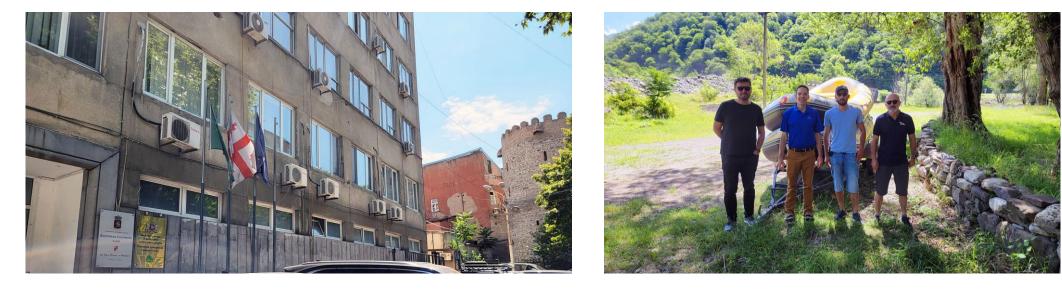


map: World Bank

## Adventure sector in Georgia developing



# **Discussions: ERCA, ACCT, GNTA, Operators**







# **Site Visits**









# Options



#### DESIGN + PERFORMANCE + INSPECTION OPERATION + TRAINING

THE UK ROPES COURSE

**ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES GUIDE 2021** 

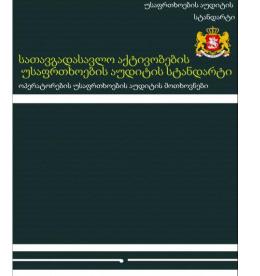
AND OFF-GROUND

## 2. ACCT standards

Advanced; internationally recognized

4. Others

ASTM, ANSI/PRCA, NZ ASG, UK Ropes Course Guide, etc.



Why bother?

standards

1. Georgia creates its own

სსტ ენ 15567-1:2015+A1:2020/2021 საქართველოს სტანდარტი სსკ: 97.220.10

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სპორტული და რეკრეაციული ობიექტები - საბაგირო კურსები ნაწილი 1: სამშენებლო და უსაფრთხოების მოთხოვნები 3. EN 15567

Basic minimum; Europe-based

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#### EUROPEAN STANDARD

#### NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

ICS 97.220.10

Supersedes EN 15567-1:2015

**English Version** 

#### Sports and recreational facilities - Ropes courses - Part 1: Construction and safety requirements

Structures de sport et d'activités de plein air - Parcours acrobatiques en hauteur - Partie 1 : Exigences de construction et de sécurité

Sport- und Freizeitanlagen - Seilgärten - Teil 1: Konstruktion und sicherheitstechnische Anforderungen

EN 15567-1:2015+A1

February 2020

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 12 March 2015 and includes Amendment 1 approved by CEN on 11 November 2019.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

#### CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels

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Ref. No. EN 15567-1:2015+A1:2020 E

EUROPEAN STANDARD	EN 15567-2				
NORME EUROPÉENNE					
EUROPÄISCHE NORM	May 2015				
ICS 97.220.10	Supersedes EN 15567-2:2007				
English Versi	on				
	Sports- and recreational facilities - Ropes courses - Part 2: Operation requirements				
Structures de sport et d'activités de plein air - Parcours acrobatiques en hauteur - Partie 2: Exigences d'exploitation	Sport- und Freizeitanlagen - Seilgärten - Teil 2: Betriebliche Anforderungen				
<ul> <li>This European Standard was approved by CEN on 12 March 2015.</li> <li>CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regula Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date I standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, Ger under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified I status as the official versions.</li> <li>CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgari Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sloval Kingdom.</li> </ul>	ists and bibliographical references concerning such national nt Centre or to any CEN member. man). A version in any other language made by translation to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same a, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania,				
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Ref. No. EN 15567-2:2015 E

## Decision:

## EN 15567-1, EN 15567-2

## High-Risk Adventure Tourism Regulations

#### **Adventure Activities Regulations 2023**

#### [Location, Date]

#### [Preamble content]

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#### ANNOTATION

Any content such as the date and location the regulations were made, regulation serial number, which entity made these regulations and under what authority, etc. can be entered here.

#### 18 Publication of safety audit standards

13 13

#### Activities referred to in definition of adventure activity

#### Regulations

Schedule 1

#### 1 Title

These regulations are the Adventure Activities Regulations 2023.

#### 2 Commencement

These regulations come into force on [date].

#### Part 1

#### **Preliminary provisions**

Interpretation

#### 3 Interpretation

(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, -Law means the Organic Law of Georgia on Labor Safety. adventure activity has the meaning given in regulation 4

adventure activity operator or operator means a person conducting a business or undertaking who provides an adventure activity to a participant

#### amusement device-

- (a) means an appliance to which the motion of a prime mover is transmitted and that is used, or designed or intended to be used, for the amusement, recreation, or entertainment of persons being carried, raised, lowered, or moved by the appliance or any part of the appliance while it is in motion; and
- (b) includes the prime mover, transmission machinery, supporting structure, and any equipment used or intended to be used in connection with the appliance

Ministry means the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

prime mover means an engine, motor, or other appliance that provides mechanical energy derived from steam, water, wind, electricity, gas, gaseous products, compressed air, the combustion of fuel, or any other source

to allow for operators to prepare to meet the regulatory requirements, including Safety Audit Standard criteria, the regulations should take effect only after a period of 12 months (or more, if required) after the approval/publication of the regulations and associated Safety Audit standard has elapsed.

As discussed in the recommendations,

Georgia's occupational health and safety law is referenced a number of times in this regulation. Legal review should evaluate whether changes to these references are warranted, or if reference to additional provisions of the Organic Law of Georgia on Labor Safety or other Georgian occupational health and safety law or regulation is appropriate.

"Person conducting a business or undertaking" is a term used in Australia and NZ to refer to a business. If a different term is used in Georgia, that term should be used instead.

High-Risk Adventure Tourism Regulations

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#### Safety Audit Standard for Adventure Activities

**Requirements for a Safety Audit of Operators** 

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### **06 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**

### 6.1 Activity SOPs

For activities involving ziplines and ropes courses, operations and operating procedures must conform to the specifications of EN 15567-2, Sports- and recreational facilities - Ropes courses -Part 2: Operation requirements, or any future version of EN 15567-2, whichever is most current.

### 6.5 Clothing and Equipment

For activities involving ziplines and ropes courses, structures (including the zipline or ropes course installation itself) and all associated equipment must conform to the specifications of EN 15567-1:2015+A1, Sports and recreational facilities -Ropes courses - Part 1: Construction and safety requirements, or any future version of EN 15567-1, whichever is most current.

## Safety Audit Standard

# **Next Steps**

Adventure safety regulation for certain activities (not challenge courses) passed 2023

Full draft high-risk adventure activities regulatory content working its way through Georgian Parliament process





# **Implications for Installers, Operators**



To help ensure a reasonable, non-burdensome level of Challenge Course regulation:

## **Operators and Installers**

- "The best defense is a good outcome"
- Well-trained personnel, appropriate policies and procedures, good documentation, positive safety culture

## **Industry Bodies**

- Codes of Practice
- Organizational accreditation
- Individual practitioner certification
- Professional development opportunities
- Governing body role clarity (who sets standards, oversees credentialing, etc.)
- Advocacy

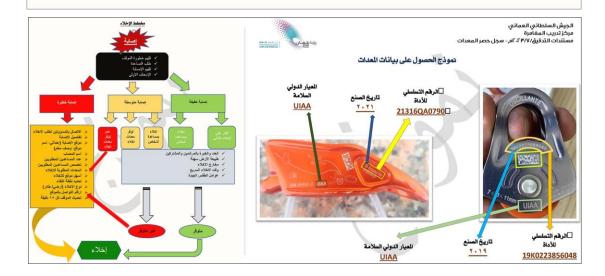
# The Future of Adventure Safety Regulation

Adventure safety regulation is on the rise, globally

- **Dubai:** 2022 regulations for ropes courses & ziplines
- **Oman:** 2023 ziplining regulations, including safety audits
- Singapore: 2023 high elements regulations (ACCT)
- India: 2021 adventure regulations (Maharashtra & Kerala states) incl. ropes course, zipline guidelines
- **Thailand:** adventure safety law (incl. ziplines) under consideration after 2019 incident
- Japan: adventure safety regulations under consideration, 2023



## Technical Guideline for Safety in Events/play areas







## **Challenge Course Regulations in Eastern Europe**

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