

ROPE TYPE AND PREPARATION FOR USAGE WITH SKYLOTEC ACTSAFE POWER ASCENDERS – ACCII | ACX | TCX | PMX | PME | ICX

ROPE TYPE

The correct choice of rope type depends on whether the Power Ascender is being used to lift or lower equipment or personnel. SKYLOTEC ActSafe Power Ascenders may only be used with ropes that have been recommended by SKYLOTEC. Selected ropes have gone through a thorough internal test procedure where the combination of rope and Power Ascender are tested under several circumstances. Additional restrictions on use may apply.



Equipment lifting

The ActSafe Equipment Lifting Rope (ELR) is the only approved rope to be used in the equipment lifting system and can be ordered at SKYLOTEC or your SKYLOTEC distributor.



Personnel lifting

All ropes used for lifting people must be certified according to EN1891A with a diameter of 11 mm and should have a solid construction. SKYLOTEC recommends the use of ActSafe ropes, Teufelberger Patron Plus or SKYLOTEC SUPER STATIC ropes, as we carry out all our tests with these ropes and know that they work well with the Power Ascenders. A rope testing procedure in case you want to do your own suitability testing and use a different rope can be found on our website. The reason for this rope test is that softer ropes in particular are unsuitable for use in SKYLOTEC Power Ascenders as they tend to deform under load and should be avoided due to their poor grip and the risk of jamming in the rope catch system. The rope test is not a 100 per cent guarantee that the rope will function perfectly at all times under all possible conditions, but it is a very good indicator.

PREPARATION

Pre-soaking (applies only to polyamid ropes)

It is recommended that only presoaked ropes are used with SKYLOTEC Power Ascenders. New ropes should be put in cold water < 40 °C (104 °F) for 24 hours and dried slowly afterwards. This will make ropes more suitable for use in SKYLOTEC Power Ascenders for two reasons:

1. Rope density

Pre-soaking makes ropes denser. The fibres will absorb the water and will shrink when drying. The result is that all fibres become more densely aligned and the sheath sits tighter around the core of the rope. This will make the rope more solid and will consequently result in less mantle slippage and deformation and thereby lead to better grip in the Power Ascender.

2. Oil dissolution

During the production process some oil is added to the rope fibres in order to reduce the friction between the individual fibres. When soaking the rope in cold water some surface oil in the sheath of the rope will dissolve. This will contribute further to a better grip. Do not soak ropes in warm water, this will lead to greater dissolution of oil, which will have a negative impact on the rope properties.



CAUTION

Always make sure that the rope is in good condition. Softer ropes are unsuitable for the use in SKYLOTEC Power Ascenders. Softer ropes should be avoided because they deform under load, grip is poor and can potentially jam the rope grab system.



RECOMMENDATION

A new rope will get an increased service life if it is soaked in cold water before first use. Avoid getting sand or dirt into the ropes since it will wear the rope grab and rope guide. Use a rope mat, rope bag or similar.