



Designation: ~~F1773–97 (Reapproved 2004)~~ Designation: F1773 – 09

Standard Terminology Relating to ~~Climbing and Mountaineering Equipment and Practices~~ Climbing, Mountaineering, Search and Rescue Equipment and Practices¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1773; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

~~1.1 This terminology defines the terms that are unique to climbing and mountaineering and the statistical basis for rating a product's performance.*~~

1.1 This terminology document is a compilation of definitions of terms, abbreviations, and acronyms that are unique to climbing, mountaineering, search and rescue collected in order to provide consistency in communication when used in actual operations, training, literature, and the statistical basis for rating a product's performance dealing with this field.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

E456 [Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics](#)

E1150 [Definitions of Terms Relating to Fatigue](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of General Climbing and Mountaineering Terms:*

3.1.1 access, *n*—the process of reaching the patients or subjects and establishing physical contact with them.

3.1.2 aid climbing, *n*—a technique of climbing that utilizes auxiliary devices as a means of ascent to supplement the natural features of the surface being climbed.

~~3.1.2~~

3.1.3 belay, *n*—a technique where a stationary person controls a rope connected to a moving climber in order to provide protection against a fall, or in the event of a fall, to catch the climber.

~~3.1.3~~

3.1.4 belay, *v*—to protect a climber with a belay. [ASTM F1773-09](#)

~~3.1.4~~ <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/915da03d-63df-42a2-9fd1-a13248cd4894/astm-f1773-09>

3.1.5 belayer, *n*—a person who is belaying.

~~3.1.5~~

3.1.6 bouldering, *n*—a technique of climbing where climbers remain close to the ground and do not use a rope to safeguard their progress.

~~3.1.6~~

3.1.7 brake bar rack, *n*—a variable friction device consisting of a u-shaped metal bar to which are attached several metal bars that create friction on the rope. Also known as a rappel rack.

3.1.8 chest harness, *n*—a type of harness worn around the chest for upper body support.

3.1.9 climber, *n*—a person engaging in the sport of climbing and mountaineering.

~~3.1.7~~

3.1.10 climbing and mountaineering, *n*—the sport of ascending, descending, and traversing on mountainous terrain, snow and ice, and natural and simulated rock surfaces.

~~3.1.8~~

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F32 on Search and Rescue and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F32.01 on Equipment, Testing, and Maintenance.

Current edition approved ~~May~~ Oct. 1, 2004; 2009. Published ~~May~~ 2004-October 2009. Originally approved in 1997. Last previous edition approved in 1997; 2004 as F1773 – 97(2004). DOI: ~~10.1520/F1773-97R04~~ 10.1520/F1773-09.

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.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.

3.1.11 climbing and mountaineering equipment, *n*—the equipment exclusively designed for use in climbing and mountaineering.

3.1.9

3.1.12 dynamic rope (rope systems), *n*—a class of ropes that is used for rescue work and rappelling when greater energy absorption qualities are required, such as in lead climbing or whenever a high fall potential exists. Such ropes are typically certified to UIAA or CE climbing rope standards.

3.1.13 evacuation, *n*—the process used to move the patient/subject between the completion of extraction and the beginning of transportation.

3.1.14 extraction, *n*—the process of removing the patient/subject from an immediately hazardous environment along with assessment, treatment, stabilization, and packaging.

3.1.15 free climbing, *n*—a technique of climbing that uses only the natural features of the surface being climbed. In free climbing, equipment may be utilized to provide protection in the event of a fall, but is not used to assist progress.

3.1.10

3.1.16 john boat (maritime), *n*—a skiff with a flat bottom.

3.1.17 lead climbing, *n*—the skill of climbing first up a pitch, utilizing a belayer, climbing rope, and intermediate protection anchors.

3.1.11

3.1.18 low stretch rope (rope systems), *n*— a class of ropes that is used for rescue work and rappelling with an elongation greater than 6 % and less than 10 % at 10 % of its minimum breaking strength.

3.1.19 pike pole (maritime), *n*—a long, slender, hooked pole used by boaters to retrieve line, objects, and so forth from water. Also known as a *boat hook*.

3.1.20 rappel, *n*—the set up of anchors and equipment used to rappel.

3.1.12

3.1.21 rappel, *v*—to descend by sliding down a rope using equipment or special technique, or both, which applies friction, thereby controlling the speed of descent.

3.1.13

3.1.22 ring buoy (maritime), *n*—a Type 4 personal floatation device, usually made of a hard buoyant material with a line encircling it.

3.1.23 route, *n*—the path chosen by a climber.

3.1.14

3.1.24 safety factor (rope systems), *n*—the ratio between the breaking strength and the load; commonly used interchangeably with the term *load ratio*, the term *safety factor* is properly applied only to systems and not to individual components.

3.1.25 self belay, *n*—a technique of self protection employed by a climber using climbing and mountaineering equipment.

3.1.15

3.1.26 soloing, *n*—a technique of climbing where the climber is alone. A belay may or may not be used.

3.1.16

3.1.27 static rope (rope systems), *n*—a class of ropes that is used for rescue work and rappelling that has a maximum elongation of 6 % at 10 % of its minimum breaking strength.

3.1.28 third party certification, *n*—a certification by an independent testing organization that a particular product meets a referenced standard.

3.1.29 top rope climbing, *n*—a technique of climbing where the climber is safeguarded by a roped belay from above.

3.2 *Definitions of Climbing and Mountaineering Equipment Terms:*

3.2.1 accessory cord, *n*—ropes used for climbing and mountaineering purposes that are not designed to absorb fall impact energy.

3.2.2 artificial climbing wall (ACW), *n*—a wall exclusively designed and built for climbing. The ACWs may be designed and used for lead climbing, top rope climbing or bouldering. The ACWs may be transportable or permanent.

3.2.3 ascender, *n*—a device used to ascend a rope.

3.2.4 belay anchor, *n*—an anchor used to secure the rope or belayer, or both, while belaying a climber. It also may be used with ropes while descending or lowering.

3.2.5 belay bar, *n*—a belay anchor made from pipe or a bar.

3.2.6 belay device, *n*—a mechanical device used to control the friction on a rope.

3.2.7 belay station, *n*—a place where belay anchors are located.

3.2.8 bolt hanger, *n*—a device which, when attached to a surface by the means of a bolt, is used to provide an anchor point.

3.2.9 carabiner, *n*—a self-closing, gated, load-bearing, connective device.

3.2.10 carabiner, locking, *n*—a carabiner with a gate-locking mechanism.

3.2.11 carabiner, nonlocking, *n*—a carabiner without a gate-locking mechanism.

3.2.12 chock, *n*—a device that is placed in a crack or pocket in rock and designed to withstand a load applied through webbing, rope, wire, or a carabiner.