



Designation: F2959 – 14

Standard Practice for Special Requirements for Aerial Adventure Courses¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2959; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice establishes criteria for the Design, Manufacture, Installation, Operation, Maintenance, Auditing and Major Modification of Aerial Adventure Courses which occur(s) after the effective date of publication of this document except as noted in 1.3.

1.2 This practice applies to the following devices when operated for concession or commercial recreation.

- 1.2.1 Zip Lines.
- 1.2.2 Ropes Courses.
- 1.2.3 Challenge Courses.
- 1.2.4 Aerial Trekking Courses.
- 1.2.5 Canopy Tours.

1.3 This practice shall not apply to the following:

1.3.1 Aerial Adventure Courses when operated exclusively under the following applications:

- 1.3.1.1 Educational curriculum.
- 1.3.1.2 Physical fitness purposes.
- 1.3.1.3 Organized competitive events.
- 1.3.1.4 Therapeutic programs.
- 1.3.1.5 Training purposes.
- 1.3.1.6 Team and confidence building.

1.3.1.7 Playground equipment covered by Consumer Safety Performance Specification F1487.

1.3.2 Amusement rides and devices whose design criteria are specifically addressed in another ASTM standard.

1.3.3 Portions of an Aerial Adventure Course unaffected by a major modification.

1.3.4 Upgrades to electrical wiring, electrical motors and electrical components of Aerial Adventure Courses provided the original design and safety criteria are maintained or enhanced.

1.3.5 Pre-existing designs for Aerial Adventure Courses that are installed after the publication date of this practice if the design is service proven or previously compliant as specified by 1.3.5.1.

1.3.5.1 Aerial Adventure Course designs may qualify as “previously compliant” for five years following the date of publication of this practice. Thereafter, an Aerial Adventure Course design must qualify as “service proven” as defined in Practice F2291 or meet the requirements of this practice.

1.4 This practice includes an annex (mandatory), which provides additional information (for example, rationale, background, interpretations, drawings, commentary, and so forth) to improve the user’s understanding and application of the criteria presented in this practice. The annex information shall be interpreted as mandatory design criteria.

1.5 This practice includes an appendix (non-mandatory), which provides additional information (for example, rationale, background, interpretations, drawings, commentary, and so forth.) to improve the user’s understanding and application of the criteria presented in this practice. The appendix information shall not be interpreted as mandatory design criteria.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. Some specific hazards statements are given in Section 7 on Hazards.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

F747 Terminology Relating to Amusement Rides and Devices

F770 Practice for Ownership, Operation, Maintenance, and Inspection of Amusement Rides and Devices

F846 Guide for Testing Performance of Amusement Rides and Devices (Withdrawn 2013)³

F893 Guide for Auditing Amusement Rides and Devices (Withdrawn 2013)³

F1193 Practice for Quality, Manufacture, and Construction of Amusement Rides and Devices

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F24.61 on Adventure Attractions.

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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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

- [F1487 Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Play-ground Equipment for Public Use](#)
- [F1772 Specification for Harnesses for Rescue, Safety, and Sport Activities](#)
- [F1957 Test Method for Composite Foam Hardness-Durometer Hardness](#)
- [F2137 Practice for Measuring the Dynamic Characteristics of Amusement Rides and Devices](#)
- [F2291 Practice for Design of Amusement Rides and Devices](#)
- [F2375 Practice for Design, Manufacture, Installation and Testing of Climbing Nets and Netting/Mesh used in Amusement Rides, Devices, Play Areas and Attractions](#)

2.2 ANSI Standards:⁴

- [ANSI B77 Passenger Ropeways - Aerial Tramways, Aerial Lifts, Surface Lifts, Tows and Conveyors - Safety Requirements](#)
- [ANSI Z359 Fall Protection Code](#)

2.3 European Standard:⁵

- [EN 12277 Mountaineering equipment - Harnesses - Safety requirements and test methods](#)

2.4 NFPA Standard:⁶

- [NFPA 1983 Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services](#)

2.5 UIAA Standard:⁷

- [UIAA 105 Mountaineering and Climbing Equipment: Harnesses](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Terminology shall be in accordance with Terminology [F747](#).

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *aerial trekking course, n*—self-guided aerial adventure course containing elements intended to be obstacles.

3.2.2 *canopy tour, n*—aerial adventure course which provides patron access to the canopy of a forest.

3.2.3 *challenge course, n*—guided aerial adventure course containing elements intended to be obstacles.

3.2.4 *ropes course, n*—synonym for a challenge course.

3.2.5 *zip line, n*—an aerial adventure course element over an open span consisting of an inclined wire or fiber rope on which harnessed patron(s) suspended from a pulley or trolley are able to traverse with the primary force for propulsion being gravity.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The rationale for developing a separate standard practice for Aerial Adventure Courses is based on the unique functional, operational and patron participation requirements when compared to amusement rides and devices.

4.2 The purpose of this practice is to provide designers, manufacturers, constructors, system integrators, owners/operators, and auditors with criteria and references for use in the design, manufacture, construction, installation, integration, operation, maintenance, auditing, and major modification of Aerial Adventure Courses.

4.3 Unless this practice expressly provides otherwise in a particular provision, the term “Aerial Adventure Course” is to be used in place of “Amusement Rides and Devices” herein.

5. Owner/Operator Requirements

5.1 Ownership, operation, maintenance and inspection requirements for Aerial Adventure Courses shall be in accordance with Practice [F770](#) with the following exceptions and inclusions:

5.1.1 Substitute the word “patron” for “passenger” when used.

5.1.2 *Include in Practice [F770](#) Section 4, Subsection 4.1.1*—The Owner/Operator shall also consider environmental condition(s) including but not limited to wind, rain, ice, and lightning when developing operating procedures.

5.1.3 *Practice [F770](#) Section 4, Subsection 4.1*—Replace “Manufacturer” with “Designer/Engineer, Manufacturer and Training Entity.”

5.1.4 Practice [F770](#) Section 4, Subsection 4.1.1, shall also include the operation policies and procedures with pertinent information from the Designer/Engineer, Manufacturer and Training Entity.

5.1.5 *Practice [F770](#) Section 4, Section 4.1.2*—Specific emergency procedures in the event of an abnormal condition or an interruption of service shall include an access plan for performing evacuation, first aid and ground care of evacuated patrons.

5.1.6 Practice [F770](#) Section 4, Subsection 4.1.4.4 shall be replaced with the following:

5.1.6.1 Prior to carrying patrons, the Course shall be inspected and tested per the Designer/Engineer, Manufacturer and Training Entity’s requirements.

5.1.7 *Practice [F770](#) Section 4*—Add the following:

5.1.7.1 *Documentation Retention Requirements*—Material and quality conformance certifications and documentation as required by the Designer/Engineer as outlined in Practice [F2291](#) or provided by Manufacturer’s requirements as outlined in Practice [F1193](#), or both, must be retained during the life cycle of the of the Aerial Adventure Course.

5.1.7.2 The owner/operator shall develop a document retention policy for pertinent records including, but not limited to training and inspection records.

5.1.8 Practice [F770](#) Section 5, Subsection 5.1 shall be replaced with the following:

5.1.8.1 There are inherent risks in the participation in or on any Aerial Adventure Course which require appropriate patron awareness, participation, physical ability and dexterity. Patrons of Aerial Adventure Courses by participating, accept the risks inherent in such participation of which the ordinary prudent person is or should be aware. Patrons have a duty to exercise good judgment and act in a responsible manner while in or on

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁵ Available from European Committee for Standardization (CEN), Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium, <http://www.cen.eu>.

⁶ Available from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471, <http://www.nfpa.org>.

⁷ Available from International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA), 61 Postfach CH-3000 Bern 23 Switzerland, <http://www.theuiaa.org/index.php>.