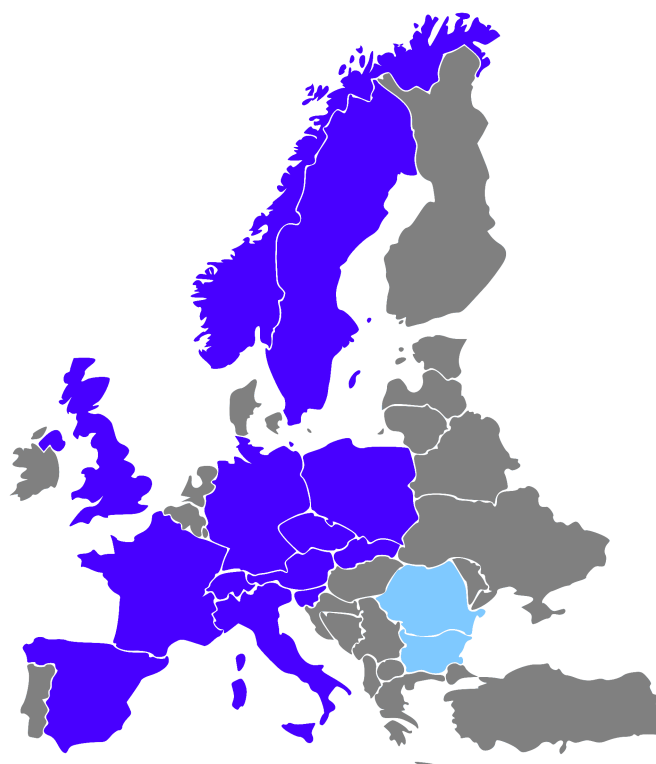




INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER BERGFÜHRERVERBÄNDE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATIONS
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE GUIDES DE MONTAGNE



THE IFMGA AND THE EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL CARD



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POSITION AND FUNCTION OF THE IFMGA

1. THE IFMGA

The IFMGA was founded in the year 1965 by 4 national mountain guides associations from Austria, France, Switzerland and Italy. Today the IFMGA has 22 member countries at an international level, among which 15 are in Europe. The IFMGA is the only organization that represents the profession of the mountain guides worldwide. At the moment 6'000 mountain guides are members of the IFMGA of which more than 85% are resident in Europe (See appendix 1 and 2).

2. THE NATIONAL MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATIONS

Members of the IFMGA are the national mountain guides association. It is important to note that a national association has necessarily to represent all mountain guides of its country in order to become a member of the IFMGA. The training has to be open to all citizens of a country without any discrimination. Otherwise the national association has to contact the responsible authorities that are responsible for the regulation of professional education. The IFMGA has always advised its members, the national mountain guides associations, to ask the authorities to officially acknowledge the practice of the mountain guide profession in the corresponding countries and to regulate the training. The precise wording is fixed in the bylaws in appendix 3 (A).

(See appendix 3 (A); the list of all countries including the details concerning regimentation and professional acknowledgement can be found in appendix 9).



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3. THE STANDARDS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

One of the main goals of the IFMGA is to guarantee to the clients a certified mountain guide with the best possible safety. This can be assured with very high quality training. This training is unified and described in the standards, especially the technical level, the required competences and the necessary specific professional acquirements. These standards are maintained by the technical commission of the IFMGA. All responsible people for the training of all members are represented in this commission. (See appendix 2, 4 (B) and 10).

4. THE ADMISSION PROCESS TO THE IFMGA

The admission of a national association to the IFMGA usually takes 5 to 10 years. The detailed information concerning the admission of an association to the IFMGA can be found in appendix 7 (E) and 8. To emphasize this, we take the example of Bulgaria: The technical commission of the IFMGA is working with the national association of Bulgaria, in order to create a training system that takes account of the specific needs of the Bulgarians on the one hand and is compatible with the standards of the IFMGA on the other. The managing committee of the IFMGA also strives to ensure that the principles of the free professionalism and the mutual support in this sector will be implemented by the Bulgarian state. (See appendix 7 (E) and 8).

5. CONTROL OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE TRAINING QUALITY OF MEMBER COUNTRIES.

The responsible persons for the professional education are required to guarantee a high and sustainable level of this training. The technical commission of the IFMGA makes periodical education controls, in order to ensure the unified training and educational at an international level. If this level is not achieved, a member country can be suspended or expelled from the IFMGA. Spain is an example for this: after Spain was suspended because of serious



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problems in guide training, it took 5 years for the quality of the training to return to the international level and once attained Spain's membership was restored. (See appendix 8).

6. CODE OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

The IFMGA adopted a code of professional practice in 2009 that requires certified IFMGA mountain guides to respect specified professional standards. (See appendix 6 (D)).

7. THE IFMGA MOUNTAIN GUIDE CARD

Mountain guides who have the right to practise this profession and are members of a national association, that is member of the IFMGA, receive the corresponding membership card. This card is produced by the IFMGA and distributed by the national association. On the membership card there is an annual sticker that is only provided to those who have attended the compulsory professional development education and have the required professional liability insurance. This present member card could be replaced by a European card. (See appendix 5 (C)).

8. EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITHOUT ANY MOUNTAINS

The example of Belgium, where the citizens have the possibility to attend the training in France thanks to a corresponding agreement, shows that the training to become a mountain guide is open to all citizens of countries with no mountains by attending this in a member country of the IFMGA.



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9. WHAT DOES THE IFMGA EXPECT OF A EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL CARD?

The IFMGA expects of a European (including Schengen) professional card

- ☐ A simplification of the free professional practice inside of Europe, especially because it is a cross border profession by nature
- ☐ A simplification of the control and the identification as a professional mountain guide for the authorities which are responsible for the regimentation and as well for the consumers
- ☐ Warranty for a better protection of the client

The IFMGA pursues the creation of a professional European identification card as a means to furnish the responsible European commission with the necessary human and material resources and to contribute in a proactive way in the different task groups that have been set up by this commission.



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REGISTER

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APPENDIX 1: Presentation IFMGA

THE IFMGA: AN ASSOCIATION AT AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The IFMGA, founded in 1965 by guides from Austria, France, Switzerland and Italy, currently is a body of mountain guide associations from more than 20 countries in Europe, Asia, the Americas and Oceania, representing a total of almost 6000 guides.

The aim of the association is to maintain close ties between all mountain guides; to harmonise the work regulations that govern the profession; to ensure better safety conditions for clients; and to facilitate the ability of mountain guides to work abroad, on mountains all over the globe. This last point manifests itself in the solidarity that exists between all guides, no matter their country of origin, and the spontaneous assistance they provide to each other.

HIGHLY COMPETENT GUIDES WITH A HIGH LEVEL OF TRAINING

The highest training level in existence is required in four different disciplines in order to become a certified IFMGA mountain guide: rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering and ski mountaineering. IFMGA training gives a guide the ability to work on any mountain range whether they already know the mountain or not. It takes five to 10 years to become a mountain guide, from the moment potential guide start serious mountaineering to the moment when she or he receives their guide diploma.



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PROPER TRAINING GUARANTEES AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

The Technical Commission of the IFMGA looks to its permanent working group to study the evolution of techniques and how to improve the level of guide training. This Commission, made up of national technical directors, meets twice a year.

Guides are trained by the training schemes managed or run by their national associations, sometimes in collaboration with an organisation such as a school or university.

**BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE IFMGA IS A LONG PROCESS OF
INTEGRATION THAT MUST BE BACKED UP BY NATIONAL LEGISLATION**

To be accepted into the IFMGA can take a new country from five to 15 years, which is until the criteria required are fulfilled (notably in the capacity of the country's association to train guides to the required level).

Experience shows that the harmonious development in mountain guide activity, necessary for the safety of the public, is provided for by legal status or clear regulations. Indeed, to obtain a valid IFMGA diploma requires a very long and very intensive investment on the part of the guide. Inversely, in the absence of rigorous guidelines, few guides would put themselves through sufficiently high enough levels of training, giving the entire profession a confused image that would not help the development of the profession or protect the public interest on safety matters. It is therefore sometimes difficult for the public to distinguish between the highly competent IFMGA guides and the lesser competent guides who have little or no qualifications.

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APPENDIX 2: Platform IFMGA

PREAMBLE

The IFMGA platform is the reference document which aims to make operational the objectives fixed by the IFMGA statutes (see Appendix 3 (A)), notably in the development and the upholding of the high level of quality required to access the profession of mountain guide, as well as facilitating the practice of the profession in all member countries.

The platform is subdivided into five sections:

- ☐ Access to the profession of mountain guide
- ☐ Work authorisation
- ☐ Rights and obligations of IFMGA member countries
- ☐ Admission of a member country into the IFMGA
- ☐ Expulsion of an IFMGA member country

Added to this text are five annexes:

- ☐ Appendix 3 (A): The IFMGA statutes
- ☐ Appendix 4 (B): IFMGA conditions relating to the minimum standards of mountain guide training
- ☐ Appendix 5 (C): IFMGA regulations relating to the conditions of practising in a professional capacity
- ☐ Appendix 6 (D): The IFMGA Code of Professional Practice
- ☐ Appendix 7 (E): Conditions relating to the process of countries being accepted or excluded from the IFMGA



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I ACCESS TO THE PROFESSION OF MOUNTAIN GUIDE

ART. 1 Access to and the practice of the profession of mountain guide are inextricably linked to respecting the requirements detailed herein after; that the professional activity be undertaken as a principal or secondary occupation, on a regular, seasonal or occasional basis.

ART. 2 A mountain guide is a professional whose competence has been certified. He is capable of leading and instructing any member of the public who wishes to undertake activities specific to the profession in a secure, responsible and autonomous manner, against remuneration. He can practice on all the types of terrain which correspond to his responsibilities and capabilities, within the rules and regulations of the profession.

ART. 3 Access to the profession of mountain guide is open to all holders of the mountain guide diploma. This diploma recognises that the mountain guide has successfully completed all aspects of the training and assessment programme as listed in annex 4 (B).

ART. 4 The professional training in IFMGA member countries is based on a common minimum standard required of all candidates at the end of their training. The full training, as well as the conditions of eligibility for this training is described in appendix 4 (B).

II THE RIGHT TO PRACTICE

ART. 5 The right to practice the profession is subject to authorisation. This authorisation is delivered by the national, regional or independent organisations who are in charge of the profession. The model related to obtaining this certificate authorising the right to practice the profession, as well as the social and professional obligations are defined in appendix 5 (C).



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ART. 6 The professional with the right to practice and being a member of an IFMGA association, is the holder of the IFMGA mountain guide card. The description of this card is given in appendix 5 (C).

III RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF IFMGA MEMBER COUNTRIES

ART. 7 All IFMGA members must uphold the national/regional rules and regulations relating to the profession.

ART. 8 All IFMGA members should show and provide mutual reciprocity and assistance.

ART. 9 Members of the IFMGA must make it possible to all IFMGA card holders the right to practice the profession while respecting the national/regional laws in force.

ART. 10 All IFMGA members promise to apply the code of professional practice when practising the profession, as described in appendix 6 (D).

IV ADMISSION OF A COUNTRY INTO THE IFMGA

ART. 11 Any organisation which represents the mountain guide profession in their country, on the national scale or federal scale in federal countries, can become a member of the IFMGA. The conditions and the timescales involved for admission of a mountain guide association into the IFMGA are defined in Appendix 7 (E).



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V EXPULSION OF A MEMBER COUNTRY FROM THE IFMGA

ART. 12 Any member country of the IFMGA can be expelled from the association in the case of a gross breach of their obligations. The process of expulsion is detailed in annex 7 (E).

Alexis Mallon

For the working party, October 2008



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APPENDIX 3 (A): Bylaws IFMGA

Representatives of the mountain guides from Italy, France, Switzerland and Austria decided at the occasion of the centennial celebration of the first ascent of the Matterhorn in July of 1965 to form an International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations. The federation enacted its first bylaws at the meeting of the delegates on October 22, 1966 in Sitten.

NAME AND OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION

ART. 1 The federation calls itself „International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations“ (IFMGA). It is incorporated under the Laws of Switzerland, particularly Para. 60-79 of the Swiss Civil Code.

ART. 2 Seat of the federation is the current domicile of the federation secretary.

PURPOSE OF THE FEDERATION

ART. 3 The purpose of the federation is to strengthen relations with the authorities who on a national basis are responsible for the profession of mountain guiding:

- ☐ Through assimilation of the mountain guiding regulations
- ☐ Through promoting as much as possible uniform training standards for mountain guides
- ☐ To ease for the mountain guides the exercising of their profession abroad, among through issuance of a uniform international identity card
- ☐ To appoint when necessary a board of arbitration which has an advisory function during disputes among members or by members with third parties
- ☐ To study general and economic problems that affect the profession of mountain guiding
- ☐ To further closer camaraderie and exchange of ideas among mountain guides from all nations

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MEMBERSHIP

ART. 4 Membership in the Federation is open to that organization in every country that is recognized officially as representing the interests of the mountain guides on a national basis in so far as it has the status of a legal entity, and whose members receive a mountain guide certificate after an exam given by the state or by a state authorized agency.

Upon motion by the executive or a national association the general meeting can bestow honorary membership upon persons who have given valuable service to mountain guiding or the International Federation.

Members who don't fulfil their obligations according to the bylaws can be expelled from the IFMGA.

ART. 5 The members are represented in the federation by a delegation of three: The president or director of the respective national association (defined in art. 4) and two elected members.



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GENERAL MEETING

ART. 6 The general meeting is the highest authority of the federation. It is made up of the delegates who represent the members. The regular general meeting is called twice a year by the secretary at the instruction of the president. They set the agenda.

Further the president can, whenever he deems it necessary or a member asks in writing, call an extraordinary general meeting.

ART. 7 The general meeting decides on the acceptance or expulsion of members, appoints the members of the executive and deals with all business not under authority of other executive bodies. It controls the actions of the executive bodies and can dismiss them at any time. It approves the agenda.

During the fall meeting at least the following items have to be put on the agenda:

- ☐ Minutes of the last meeting
- ☐ Annual report of the President
- ☐ Budget
- ☐ Setting of the annual dues
- ☐ Motions
- ☐ New Business

ART. 8 Decisions of the general meeting become effective by a simple majority vote. Amendments to the bylaws are only possible if two thirds of the members agree.



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ART. 9 Each delegation as representative of the members of the federation during the general meeting has one vote for each 100 members of it's association, or fraction thereof. In case of a tie the president casts the deciding vote.

ORGANS OF THE FEDERATION

ART. 10 The managing committee of the federation is composed by the President, the Vice-President, and the Past-President and of the President, the Vice-President and the Past-President of the TC. On the occasion of the General Meeting they are elected by the delegates of the member associations for a period of three years. Each person can be elected for maximum three times three years. First as Vice-President, then as President and finally as Past-President. The candidates come from the five countries of the Alps in the following row: France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Germany.

The President and the President of the TC should be members of the same national association. The General Secretary is compulsory a mountain guide with domicile in Switzerland. After six years he is re-elected for three more years. The members of the managing committee are reimbursed according to the regulations of expenses.

RUNNING AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEDERATION

ART. 11 The President runs the federation and represents it in its function according to the purpose of the federation He convenes the meetings and leads them.



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ART. 12 The TC is responsible for a coordinated and up-to day training and further education. Two delegates of the member countries each compose the TC of the federation. On the occasion of every General Meeting the President of the TC gives report about the work of his commission. The TC is supported by a permanent working team with representatives of the 5 alpine countries.

ART. 13 The General Secretary administers the documents and receipts, which concern the administration of the federation. He does the correspondence and can sign papers on the instruction of the President. He writes the minutes of the meetings, controls the lists of the members and acts as chief accountant during the fiscal year. He administers the assets of the federation, settles the expenses, which are signed by the President, and calculates the budget for the fall meeting.

The account is presented for admission on the occasion of the spring meeting. The association, which organizes the meeting, chooses two auditors. The accounting has to be proved by a certified trust company. The fiscal year corresponds to the calendar year

The records of the federation are deposited in the National Archives of Valais in Sitten (VS/CH).

ART. 14 The travel costs of the executive members are paid by the federation. The travel costs of the delegates of the associations are paid by these associations.

ART. 15 In case of disagreement among the members of the executive, the general meeting has the final decision.

ART. 16 Every year the general meeting sets the annual dues and they have to be paid to the treasurer before 15th April. The fixed dues have to be paid by all the members until their 60th birthday.

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- ART. 17** The revenue of the federation consists of:
- ☐ The normal yearly dues
 - ☐ Donations from authorities, corporations or individuals
 - ☐ The proceeds from chattels and real estate

LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION

ART. 18 Every dispute between a member and the federation goes before an arbitration board whose make up is decided upon by the two parties.

ART. 19 The federation strictly rejects any discussion on questions of politics, religion or race. It will not get involved in the internal rules of the national associations in as far as they are not contrary to the purpose and the spirit of the IFMGA.

ART. 20 The federation can dissolve itself upon motion by the president and two thirds majority vote. The executive takes on the liquidation of the assets and the general meeting decides on the use of the net proceeds according to the law.

ART. 21 The guidelines for the admission of applicant countries are represented in the appendix of the statutes. They were approved at the meeting of May 9th 2003 on top of Schilthorn, Mürren.

These bylaws were approved at the general meeting IFMGA on November 29th, 2008 in Stockholm and become effective immediately.



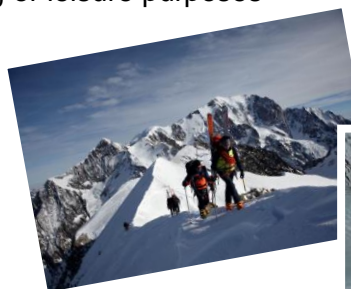
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APPENDIX 4 (B): Details relating to the common criterion of professional training for mountain guides

B0: GENERALITIES

ART. B0.1 A mountain guide is a professional whose competence has been certified. He is capable of taking and instructing any person in a secure, responsible and autonomous manner for activities specific to the profession. His ability, based on his expert knowledge of the mountains and his savoir-faire allows him to fulfil five types of functions:

- ☐ The role of supervisor for sporting or leisure purposes
- ☐ The role of teacher
- ☐ The role of trainer in a sporting context
- ☐ The role derived from being a technical advisor or mountain sports consultant
- ☐ The role link to mountain rescue



THE STRUCTURE OF THE TRAINING

ART. B0.2 The holder of the mountain guide diploma is certified during and after his structured training programme on a collective and individual basis.

ART. B0.3 No person can envisage reaching the final stage of the mountain guide training programme without having first succeeded (see art. B2):

- ☐ in the totality of the admission tests for the aspirant mountain guide diploma
- ☐ a minimum amount of professional practice
- ☐ Equally, no person can envisage undertaking the aspirant guide training programme without having first passed the aspirant mountain guide entry exam (see art. B1).



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ART. B0.4 Structured training is understood to be all instruction given in the form of reputable training based on the legislative guidelines, regulatory or administrative, or failing this, the guidelines laid down by an association or organisation which is recognized in a specific form by a member state.

The structured training is given:

- ☐ under the form of Collective Structured Training (CST) or,
- ☐ under the form of the above plus Individual Structured Training (IST)

ART. B0.5 Structured Collective Training is understood to mean any type of teaching given to a group of students within the structure of an organisation or a specific structure in charge of providing professional training.

ART. B0.6 Structured Individual Training is understood to mean any type of teaching in a professional situation given to an aspirant guide by an instructor/advisor.

All individual training must be preceded by structured group training:

- ☐ The instructor/advisor must be a holder of the mountain guide diploma and have a minimum of three years professional experience
- ☐ An instructor/advisor can only be responsible for one trainee at a time
- ☐ The participant is on direct and constant supervision
- ☐ The activities of the participant are journalised in a report portfolio, which is delivered by the responsible institution or authority





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DURATION OF THE TRAINING / VOLUME OF TEACHING

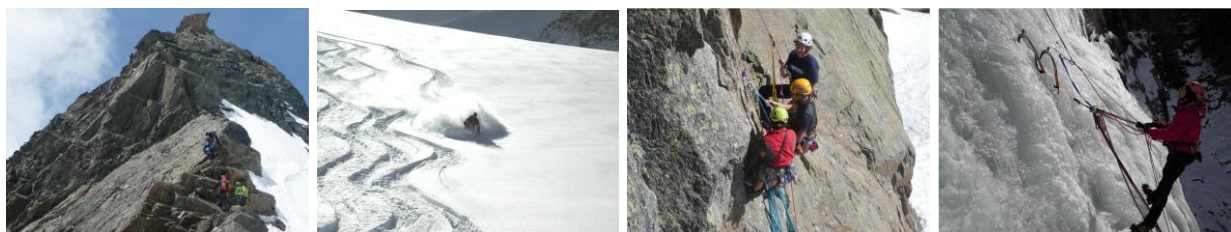
ART. B0.7 The training, including all exams, should number a minimum of 80 effective days spread out over a period of three years minimum, five years maximum. The group section of the training cannot be inferior to 60 days, including exams.

ART. B0.8 The training programme includes both theory and practical elements.

ART. B0.9 The practical sections are of a minimum of 60 days spread out over the entire training programme:

- ☐ At least 20 days of “rock” training (alpinism/athletic climbing)
- ☐ At least 20 days of snow, ice and mixed terrain training
- ☐ At least 20 days of winter training (for example: ski mountaineering, off-piste, ski touring, snowshoeing, etc)

This takes place in the high mountain zones for a minimum of 40 days.





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B1: THE ENTRANCE EXAM

ART. B1.1 To be eligible for the entrance exam candidates must fulfil the following requirements:

- ☐ Be over 18 years of age
- ☐ Be in very good physical shape
- ☐ Possess high moral standards
- ☐ Possess a very good level of: mountaineering experience (rock, snow, ice and mixed terrain); athletic rock climbing skills; skiing ability in all types of snow and on all types of terrain. This experience is certified by their list of courses, as described in art. B1.3.

ART. B1.2 Access to the aspirant guide course is subject to passing the entrance exam. The challenges set in the exam as well as the minimum technical requirements are defined below:

- ☐ A rock climbing test of level 5a minimum, in mountaineering boots
- ☐ A rock climbing test of level 6b minimum, in climbing shoes
- ☐ An ice climbing test with ice axe, using the classic technique
- ☐ An ice climbing test with one or two ice axes, using the front point technique
- ☐ A skiing test, mastering all types of snow on all terrains. This test is not required for countries where no professional skiing activity takes place

The entrance exam is either integrated into a pre-training programme or organised specially



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ART B1.3 The mountaineering experience of a candidate is confirmed by their list of courses, established on the following model.

Minimum requirements for presentation at the entrance exam: The candidate must provide a list of at least 35 varied mountain courses which they have carried out over a period of at least three years and spread out as follows:

Summer mountaineering:

- ☐ **Mixed, snow and ice:** minimum of 10 courses of which five must be of difficulty "Difficult" and with a vertical drop of at least 800 meters
- ☐ **Rock:** Minimum of 10 courses with a vertical drop of at least 250 meters (or at least 10 pitches), of minimum difficulty 4, with protection to be added to at least one part of the climb, in mountaineering boots
- ☐ The descent of part of these courses can't be done by rappelling and must have taken place by a route other than that of the ascent and must have been of an alpine character
- ☐ The approach and return trip for these courses must have taken place on mountainous terrain or and/or glaciers

Winter mountaineering:

- ☐ Ten days in the mountains are ski touring (if the country is a "No-Ski" country, the activity could be hiking in the winter period) with a minimum of 1000 meters acclivity/declivity; of which a minimum of five days on glacier terrain. The remaining 5 days/courses are left for each structure to define in function of the particular specificities of the terrain of practice:

In addition the candidate has to exhibit a technical climbing list which shows:

- ☐ **rock:** routes of several pitches, difficulty 6a minimum
- ☐ **ice:** several pitches on steep ice, difficulty minimum 4



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**B2: DETAILS RELATING TO THE COMMON CRITERION OF PROFESSIONAL
TRAINING FOR ASPIRANT GUIDES**

PREAMBLE

ART. B2.1 The aspirant guide diploma is a transitional diploma of a minimum duration of one year and a maximal duration of five years, allowing the progressive gathering of certified knowledge and savoir-faire in order to take the final mountain guide diploma. The holder of the aspirant diploma is certified as having the required level of competence in the domains described below; this limits what he can do and the difficulty he can undertake, as follows:

THE VOLUME OF INSTRUCTION GIVEN TO ASPIRANT GUIDES

ART. B2.2 The title of aspirant guide authorizes a structured group training course of a minimum duration of 50 days, during which the following themes should be taught for these minimum numbers of days:

- ☐ Snow and avalanches, 5 days
- ☐ Self-rescue, 4 days
- ☐ Mountain medicine, 2 days
- ☐ Practical winter training, 10 days
- ☐ Practical summer training, 20 days - spread out as:
10 days of high altitude rock training/10 days of snow, ice and mixed terrain training.

The nine days which remain are left for each structure to choose the training necessary, depending on the particular specificities of the terrain of practice.



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ABILITIES TAUGHT AND CERTIFIED ON THE ASPIRANT GUIDE COURSE

ART. B2.3 The list of competences is as follows:

I INSTRUCT AND TRAIN ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. OVERALL SKILLS

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Pedagogical aspects of the profession with regard to teaching and guest relations

Contents:

- ☐ Risk management
- ☐ Communication
- ☐ Personality
- ☐ Social skills

2. TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Guiding techniques in different terrains and situations
- ☐ Tactics and approaches in different terrains and situations
- ☐ Adaptation of the planned tactic and technique to the actual situation
- ☐ Expansion and maintenance of the own technique in all kinds of terrains in the range of the required skills

Contents:

- ☐ Rock/ice/snow/mixed terrain/ski
- ☐ Tactics and technique without rope during ascent and descent
- ☐ Tactics and technique with rope during ascent and descent

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3. METHODOLOGY AND DIDACTICS

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Pedagogical methods and didactic procedure
- ☐ Planning and implementation of the different pedagogical ways with regard to one or several learning goals

Contents:

- ☐ Basic skills in methodology
- ☐ Own behavior in the role of instructor
- ☐ Pedagogical measures
- ☐ Planning and implementation of the lesson

II SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES CONNECTED TO THE MOUNTAIN WORLD

1. ABOUT SAFETY AND RESCUE

1.1. ORIENTATION

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Different techniques of orientation
- ☐ Adaptation of these techniques and their possible combinations to the respective situation

Contents:

- ☐ Orientation without technical aids
- ☐ Orientation with technical aids



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1.2 METEOROLOGY

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Weather forecast: Reading, interpretation, own observations
- ☐ Consideration of the weather forecast for the planning of the tour
- ☐ Observation of the weather development and adaptation of the tour

Contents:

- ☐ Basic knowledge in meteorology
- ☐ Sources of information and own observations
- ☐ Making forecasts

1.3 AVALANCHES

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Discernment of the avalanche situation
- ☐ Analysis and assessment of the situation
- ☐ Responsible behavior considering the risk

Contents:

- ☐ Basic knowledge snow and avalanches
- ☐ Analysis and assessment of the situation
- ☐ Involvement of the analysis of the situation into a strategy of the risk management

1.4 FIRST AID

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Dealing with the different survival and rescue techniques
- ☐ Basic knowledge in anatomy and physiology, peculiarities of the physiology in the mountains



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- ☐ Organization of rescue and survival situations
- ☐ First aid equipment of the mountain guide

Contents:

- ☐ Rock, ice, ski
- ☐ Anatomic and physiologic basics, incl. high altitude physiology
- ☐ Supply on health problems and injuries
- ☐ Backpack pharmacy

2. NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

2.1. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Basic knowledge of environmental friendly practice of mountaineering
- ☐ Understanding of the mountains as a multi-cultural area
- ☐ Environmental friendly planning and implementation of a tour

Contents:

- ☐ Fauna
- ☐ Flora
- ☐ Geology
- ☐ Ecology
- ☐ Culture

CERTIFICATION OF ABILITIES

ART. B2.4 The practical and theoretical experience listed above must be certified. The knowledge and capacity of the candidates is evaluated based on a training programme which is in effect supervised and obligatory.

Validation may be organised, depending on the teaching method, under one or several methods:



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- ☐ Ongoing evaluation (candidates are evaluated over a long length of time)
- ☐ Organized exam (candidates are evaluated over a determined length of time): practical test and/or written test and/or oral test

ART. B2.5 Having passed all of the tests/exams the trainee then becomes the holder of the aspirant guide diploma.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTISE AND ASPIRANT GUIDE RIGHTS

ART. B2.6 The practical course is to be considered as a structured, individual course. It is an important part of the training programme and allows the trainees to gain progressive and controlled autonomy. Aspirant guides must undertake a practical course of at least 14 days (7 in winter and 7 in summer) accompanied by a certified IFMGA guide.

This practical course will be subject to a written report which will be examined by the appropriate authorities. It will be countersigned by the supervising guide.

THE RIGHTS OF THE ASPIRANT GUIDE

ART. B2.7 The aspirant guide can be remunerated for guiding and teaching. Due to a lack of experience the aspirant guide's activities are subject to the following conditions:

- ☐ His training in the professional domain must be validated
- ☐ The preparation for an activity should remain simple
- ☐ The teaching techniques should remain simple
- ☐ The teaching strategy should remain simple
- ☐ The risks incurred should not be too high and their management should be simple



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It is up to the member country to apply and enforce these rules while respecting the regulations. These conditions become null and void when the aspirant guide accompanies an IFMGA certified guide.

B3: ABILITIES TAUGHT AND CERTIFIED TO MOUNTAIN GUIDES

ART. B3.1 The list of competences is as follows.

I LEAD, INSTRUCT AND TRAIN ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. CROSS-DISCIPLINARY COMPETENCE

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ The perfecting of the non-technical aspects of the job such as the instruction and the leading of clients
- ☐ The verification of the autonomy of the trainee in the choice and practice of these aspects

Contents:

- ☐ Risk management
- ☐ Communication
- ☐ Personality
- ☐ Social skills

2. TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ The verification of the autonomy of the trainee in his choice and practice of the teaching techniques and support in the different terrains and situations



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- ☐ The verification of the autonomy of the trainee in his choice and means of progression and the tactics employed in the different terrains and situations
- ☐ The verification of the autonomy of the trainee in the adaptation of the tactics and techniques of each situation
- ☐ The maintenance and the perfecting of personal progression techniques on all types of terrain, based on skills already mastered

Contents:

- ☐ Rock/Ice/Snow/Mixed/Ski
- ☐ Tactics and technique without the use of a rope, ascent and descent
- ☐ Tactics and technique with the use of a rope, ascent and descent

3. METHODOLOGY AND DIDACTICS

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Perfecting the teaching methods and the educational approach.
- ☐ Verification of the autonomy of the trainee in the planning and practice of the different forms of teaching, adapted to one or several objectives.

Contents:

- ☐ The basics of teaching
- ☐ Behaviour of the supervisor
- ☐ Teaching aids
- ☐ Planning and leading teaching sessions



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II SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES CONNECTED TO THE MOUNTAIN WORLD

2. ABOUT SAFETY AND RESCUE

1.1. ORIENTATION

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Verification of the autonomy of the trainee in the adaptation of different techniques of orientation and of their possible combinations to the situation encountered

Contents:

- ☐ Orientation without technical support
- ☐ Orientation with technical support

1.2. METEOROLOGY

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Verification of the autonomy of the trainee in the setting out and interpretation of the weather forecasts and of his own observations
- ☐ Verification of the autonomy of the trainee in his ability to take into account the weather forecast when planning a course, as well as his ability to adapt to the weather changes during the course

Contents:

- ☐ The basics of meteorology
- ☐ Sources of information and personal observations
- ☐ Forecasting



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1.3. AVALANCHES

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Verification of the autonomy of the trainee in his ability to recognise, analyse and evaluate a possible avalanche risks
- ☐ Responsible behaviour taking into account the risk factor

Contents:

- ☐ Basic knowledge of snow and avalanches.
- ☐ Analysis and interpretation of possible avalanche risks
- ☐ The integration of the analysis of a possible avalanche risk into the strategy of risk management

1.4. FIRST-AID

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Verification of the autonomy of the trainee in the management of survival and rescue situations

Contents:

- ☐ Basic knowledge in anatomy and physiology, including altitude physiology
- ☐ Taking charge of a survival and rescue situation
- ☐ Mountain guide first-aid kit



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2. NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Learning goals/skills:

- ☐ Basic knowledge of the fundamentals allowing the participation in mountain sports in harmony with the environment and nature
- ☐ Understanding of the mountain environment as a multicultural space
- ☐ Verification of the autonomy of the trainee in the planning and undertaking of courses while respecting the nature and the environment

Content:

- ☐ Fauna
- ☐ Flora
- ☐ Geology
- ☐ Ecology
- ☐ Culture

CERTIFICATION

ART. B3.2 The practical abilities and competences listed above need to be certified. The knowledge and the capacity of the candidate will be evaluated based on what is, in effect, ongoing and obligatory training.

Validation can be organised, depending on the teaching method, under one or several methods:

- ☐ Ongoing evaluation (on a long term basis)
- ☐ Organised exam/test (evaluation of the candidate over a pre-determined length of time): practical exam and/or written exam and/or oral exam



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ART. B3.3 Once the aspirant guide has passed all the exams/tests he will become a holder of the full mountain guide diploma.

B4: REFRESHER TRAINING

DEFINITION AND AIMS OF REFRESHER TRAINING

ART. B4.1 The term refresher training is understood to mean training courses given by an organisation or qualified person.

ART. B4.2 These days serve to deepen and enlarge knowledge as well as to exchange experiences.

PERIODICITY AND DURATION OF REFRESHER TRAINING

ART. B4.3 The minimum duration of these refresher training courses is fixed by each member country. The ratio of the number of refresher training days provided, to each civil year gone by must not be less than 1:2. The interval between these refresher training courses must not exceed six years. It is recommended to count one day per year and to put a refresher training course into place at least every four years.



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APPENDIX 5 (C): IFMGA conditions relating to the conditions of practising in a professional capacity

Holding certification of their professional capacity, composed of: the presentation of the mountain guide/aspirant guide diploma, as defined in appendix 4 (B) of the present text, the undertaking of periodic re-training courses as defined in appendix 4 (B) of the present text.

Practising the profession is, in the least, subject to respecting the following requirements:

- ☐ Subscribing to the socio-professional obligations in place, in the region/country where the guide resides
- ☐ Taking out Public Liability insurance under the conditions defined by the authorities in charge of the profession, covering all aspects of the profession

Subject to meeting the above requirements, the qualification allowing practice of the profession is delivered in the form of a national/regional mountain guide card.

Contained on this card is:

- ☐ The last name of the guide (or aspirant guide)
- ☐ The first name of the guide/aspirant guide
- ☐ Date of birth and address
- ☐ A passport type photo
- ☐ The number of the national card
- ☐ The annual identification mark
- ☐ The name and address of the authorities who delivered the national/regional card
- ☐ An IFMGA sticker, subject to the payment of an annual subscription fee by the national/regional association to the IFMGA.





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APPENDIX 6 (D): The IFMGA code of professional practice

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Code of Professional Practice outlines the responsibilities of a mountain guide whether with clients, members of the public or fellow guides. It forms the Duty of Care owed by a Guide.

1.2. Within this Code all references to the masculine gender shall include the feminine. All references to the “mountain guide” shall include the male and female mountain guides and aspirant mountain guides.

2. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MOUNTAIN GUIDE

2.1. The activities of a Guide are: mountaineering, mountain walking or hiking, rock climbing including sport climbing and the use of artificial walls, aid climbing, snow and ice climbing, ski touring/mountaineering, and off-piste skiing. With additional training canyoning and educational outdoor activities in mountaineering and rope techniques may also be included.

2.2. The mountain guide teaches the activities mentioned in 2.1., using the most appropriate teaching methods. He provides his participants an appropriate environment so they can safely develop their skills. He can choose to let them climb either as leaders or as an independent roped party, as long as they don't take any unnecessary risk. The number of the students that he has in his care must not exceed his capacity for adequate supervision



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2.3 The mountain guide leads or accompanies a person or a group. He chooses the guiding ratio according to: The local customs and/or regulations, the abilities of his clients, the difficulty, the risk, the length of the route, the weather and conditions on the mountain.

2.4. The mountain guide can also work as a coach in all the activities mentioned under point 2.1.

2.5. The mountain guide can function as a technical adviser for his clients, for municipalities and other private and public collectives in their field of competence, especially with regard to the organisation of courses, expeditions, teaching sessions etc..

2.6. The field of work of the mountain guide applies to:

- ☐ Activities in mountains (including high altitude), adventure areas, rock, snow and ice
- ☐ All the artificial and natural structures which allow the mountain guide to execute his technical skills in activities held on structures such as cliffs, boulders, artificial facilities
- ☐ Snow-covered areas incorporating: skiing (off-piste skiing, ski touring and ski mountaineering, extreme skiing), and winter ascents using all kinds of equipment

2.7. The mountain guide is allowed to practise his activities in all countries, but in doing so must observe any local customs or laws

2.8. The mountain guide respects the boundaries of other professional groups and follows the current legal requirements.



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3. THE POSITION OF THE MOUNTAIN GUIDE

3.1. The mountain guide can work as a director of a mountaineering school, as an independent guide or as an employee.

3.2. He can also work freelance for an institution. He can keep his autonomy concerning the organization of his work.

3.3. Independent of his position the mountain guide is responsible for all his decisions and has to reject any projects which are too risky for him or which seem unethical. He should inform the relevant organization if he has concerns regarding security. He can refer to the code of honour of the IFMGA and/or to the local rules and customs.

3.4. As an employee he must respect the instructions of his employer as long as they don't contravene point 3.

4. GENERAL PROFESSIONAL DUTIES

4.1. All activities require caution, awareness and a vigilance concerning the assessment of the conditions and the skills of the participants. An inherent risk is unavoidable in the scope of activities of the mountain guide. It is not possible for the mountain guide to predict the exact risk, or to guarantee absolute security to his participants.

4.2. The mountain guide must make himself aware of the current conditions and uses the appropriate means to do this.

4.3. When he is working, the mountain guide always carries a first-aid kit or has immediate access to it. He must also take all the necessary material needed for a responsible undertaking of the corresponding activity.



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4.4. He constantly keeps his knowledge and his technical skills up to date, especially in the areas of security, rescue and navigation.

4.5. He must be open to communicate with other mountaineers. He should inform his colleagues and the appropriate organizations, about risks and abnormal dangers that he has discovered during his tour.

4.6. In case of an accident the mountain guide should inform the nearest rescue centre or ask somebody else to do so. He should wherever possible help anyone who has had an accident in a reasonable way, providing this does endanger his own clients.

4.7. The mountain guide should respect the conservation of nature.

4.8. Mountain guides should behave in a loyal and helpful way towards each other. They should especially avoid competitive guiding and mutual increasing the level risk caused by competitive thinking.

4.9. Whilst in professional activities the mountain guide should wear visibly the mountain guides badge. He should also carry his mountain guide's licence on his person.

4.10. The points 4.2. to 4.8. are also valid for sporting alpine activities which do not take place during times of professional work.

4.11. The mountain guide endeavours to have and maintain good relations with the people associated with his profession



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5. THE RELATION TO THE CLIENTS

5.1. The mountain guide owes his clients a duty of care and esteem.

5.2. The clients have to be made aware of the fact that there are inherent risks involved with activities that are undertaken with mountain guides. Particular dangers should be identified.

5.3. The primary goal of the mountain guide should be to offer a rewarding experience for his clients. The main priority of mountain guide is the security of his clients, the expectations and the skills of the clients have to be balanced with the conditions encountered.

5.4. The mountain guide should especially take care of the security of minors, and be aware of the different stages of their development.

5.5. The mountain guide must be prudent and ensure that there is a clear agreement with the client. This agreement could include for example: aim of the tour, guiding fee (even if the route is changed or stopped), additional costs etc.

5.6. He should teach his clients responsible behaviour according to the conditions and develops their ability for self awareness and self responsibility. He verifies the technical, physical standard and the equipment of his clients before, during and after the activity.



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5.7. The mountain guide is allowed to leave his clients on the mountain should exceptional circumstances prevail, for example, to help or to organize a rescue or if special guiding techniques are demanded. A responsible assessment of the situation is the precondition for this.

5.8. The decision to stop a tour or to change a route should be done in dialogue with the clients. The mountain guide has the right to make a decision for security reasons on his own. He should however explain the reasons for this decision as soon as possible to his clients.



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APPENDIX 7 (E): Guidelines for the membership at the IFMGA

(Enacted on the occasion of the Delegates Meeting of 9th May 2003 in Mürren/Schilthorn.)

The directives are basic and binding rules about the membership in the IFMGA. On the one hand they determine the admission-proceeding of new members and on the other hand they show that serious violations of obligations of present members may be punished.

1. PRECONDITIONS FOR AN APPLICANT COUNTRY

1.1. APPLICATION AS AN APPLICANT COUNTRY

A new country/association has in principle to make an application and to present itself with written documents.

Different preconditions should be fulfilled:

- ☐ The association has to have at least 20 members (mountain guides)
- ☐ The demanded level in the personal skills concerning the disciplines rock, ice and mixed terrain as well as skiing has to be fulfilled
- ☐ A plan for an own mountain guide training has to exist
- ☐ Two of the four disciplines have to be practicable in the own country
- ☐ The association has to have the aim that the training and the profession of the mountain guide is recognized by the Government

If these criterions are all fulfilled without exception, the country will be accepted as an applicant country and further steps can be taken.



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1.2. FURTHER PROCEDURE

- ☐ The IFMGA supports the applicant country on its way to the admission as a member country. This concerns above all the priorities of the training (structure, scope and level). Before starting the training course, a project must be elaborated and presented to the technical commission for agreement. The project must consider the goals of IFMGA and the particularities of the candidate country both.
- ☐ A support concerning political questions regarding the associations is desirable.
- ☐ The candidate country has the obligation to participate at the meetings of the technical commission of the IFMGA.

There are two possibilities for the support through the sponsor country:

- a) Members of the applicant country attend a training in a IFMGA member country and realize the preconditions in their own country
- b) Experts of the IFMGA visit the training of the applicant country, be it as consultants, be it as instructors

Training using a) and b) would be ideal. These costs have to be paid by the applicant country.



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1.3. EXPERT PROFILE

- ☐ Strong experience in the guides training
- ☐ Experience as director of the training course
- ☐ Good communication with the candidate must be guaranteed (language for example)
- ☐ Capacity of cultural empathy
- ☐ Knowledge of structures and goals of the IFMGA

2. ADMISSION OF AN APPLICANT COUNTRY / ASSOCIATION AS A MEMBER COUNTRY OF THE IFMGA

In principle it is the applicant country that makes the application to the IFMGA for the final checkup.

2.1. PRECONDITIONS

- ☐ The structure, the scope and the level of the training correspond to the standards of the IFMGA-platform
- ☐ This level has to be controllable during a training course

2.2. CHECKUP FOR THE ADMISSION

Basically the training will be checked in the main activities:

- ☐ Rock incl. free climbing
- ☐ Snow/ice/mixed terrain incl. ice climbing
- ☐ Ski mountaineering incl. ski technic for “ski”-countries; for the “no-ski” countries, winter activity.



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- ☐ The different checkups take place during a mountain guide course with min. 5 participants. Therefore it needs a detailed arrangement between the TC, the managing committee of the IFMGA and the applicant country:
- ☐ This check is executed by two different experts from different countries
- ☐ It would be desirable if preferable different countries are engaged in this check

Priorities of the checkup:

- ☐ Assessment of the instructors (didactic and methodical abilities, personal skills, experience a.s.o.)
- ☐ Assessment of the participants of the training (personal skills, experience a.s.o.)
- ☐ General assessment (standard and level of the training)
- ☐ The TC gets a detailed report about every checkup
- ☐ The costs for the experts (traveling expenses + fees) for the first examination are paid by the IFMGA. Accommodation and food are paid by the applicant country. If further examinations are necessary because of insufficient subjects, all the costs have to be paid by the applicant country

2.3. THE ADMISSION OF AN APPLICANT COUNTRY

After the positive checkup of the training and the control of the structures of the association as a professional organization through the managing committee of the IFMGA, there will be a voting at the delegate's meeting and then the applicant country can be admitted as a member.



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2.4. TRANSITIONAL TRAINING

A transitional solution for all those members who are already mountain guides has to be fixed with the managing committee of the IFMGA and has to be familiar to everybody („Grandfather System“).

3. CONDITIONS AFTER THE ADMISSION

3.1. CONDITIONS DURING THE FIRST 5 YEARS

After the admission, the support through the IFMGA should continue for 5 more years. It should have a consulting, but also a controlling function.

The following conditions have to be fulfilled:

- ☐ At least one training series have to be organized;
- ☐ The transitional rules for the members with the „Grandfather system“ must be concluded after 5 years;
- ☐ An examination or a control can be made;
- ☐ Any deficiencies have to be eliminated immediately

4. ADMISSION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES WITHOUT SKIING AS DISCIPLINE

The admission of member countries without the part of skiing is basically possible, but only under certain conditions. These preconditions have to be individually and specifically checked for every new applicant country, then they have to be weighed and located.



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4.1. PRECONDITIONS

All the following preconditions have to be fulfilled without exception:

- a) Skiing is not present as a discipline in the job description of the mountain guides of the corresponding country and can not be practiced in the country because there is no infrastructure.
- b) It has to be evident, that the discipline skiing will not be a part of the profession of the mountain guides of the corresponding country in the future, neither
- c) The standard of all the other disciplines has to be completely fulfilled;
- d) An adequate training has to be done in winter (on snow in high-mountain areas), f. ex. with snow-shoes
- e) The subject „Snow and avalanche education“ (basics, assessment, decision, behaviour) has to be included in the training program and has to be extensively thought
- f) The European countries and the South American countries with a working infrastructure for skiing are in general excluded from this rule (f. ex. Argentina and Chile)

4.2. RESTRICTIONS DUE TO THIS REGULATION

- a) Mountain guides from countries without the discipline skiing have no reciprocal rights in other member countries in this sector
- b) Associations without the discipline skiing are not allowed to train mountain guides of member countries with the discipline skiing
- c) A mountain guide member card with the note „**NOSKI**“ identifies the mountain guides of the countries without the discipline skiing



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4.3. FURTHER REGULATIONS

Mountain guides of countries without the discipline skiing have the possibility to do the ski training (qualification) later.

Preconditions:

- a) It takes place in a different member country of the IFMGA where the discipline skiing is practiced
- b) So that the further education in the discipline skiing is guaranteed, the corresponding mountain guide has to get a second membership with the association
- c) In the mountain guide card this will be marked with: f. ex. „**SKISWISS**“ or „**SKIUSA**“

5. CONDITIONS FOR THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS / COUNTRIES

5.1. GENERAL NOTES

For the member associations/countries it should go without saying that they fulfill the conditions and the regulations of the platform of the IFMGA as minimal standards. It is also obvious that every member association makes active contributions to the IFMGA association work and with it to the requirements and to the further development of the professional interests of the professional mountain guides.

5.2. TRAINING

Within a rhythm of at least 5 years a time an own training should be organized. If this is not possible because there are not enough participants, the training should be done together with another member country.



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5.3. MEASURES IN CASE OF HEAVY DEFICIENCIES AND OFFENCES

If it is highly probable that there are deficiencies concerning the training or if they are evident, a control can be directed, which will be made after a respective voting:

- a) If heavy deficiencies are established, they have to be compensated and eliminated after a realistic fixed period of time
- b) If the deficiencies cannot be or are not eliminated after this fixed period of time, it is possible, after a voting of the delegate's assembly, to interrupt the membership or to finish the membership in grave and hopeless cases

If an association is excluded from the IFMGA, the members of this association are allowed to join a different member association, always respecting the rights and duties.

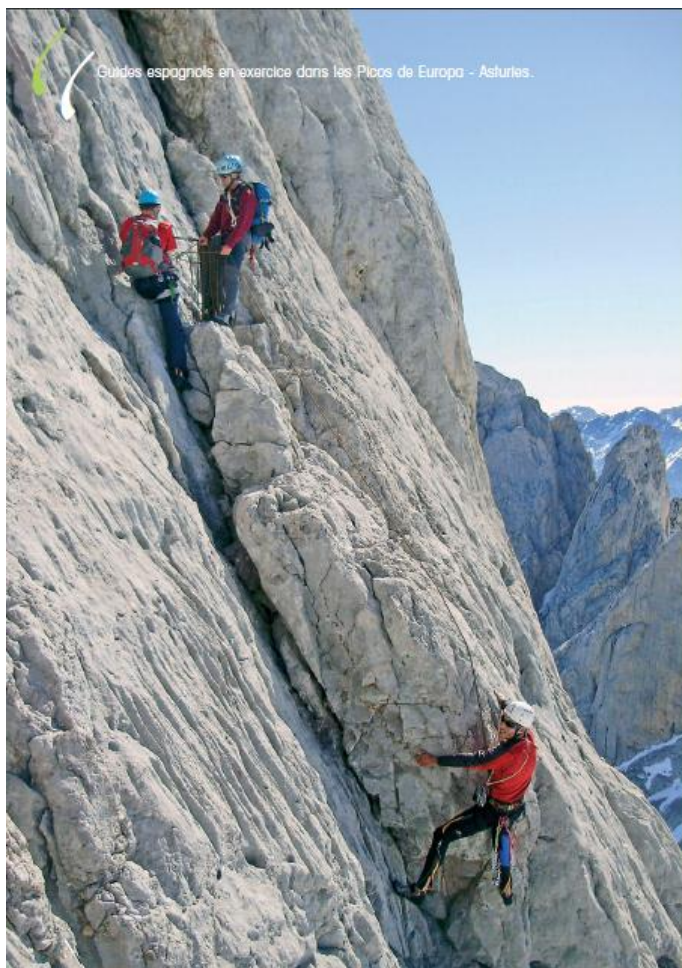
Peter Geyer (4th of March 2003)

TC working group (28th of January 2008).



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APPENDIX 8: Revue 76 – IFMGA-AEGM (the example of Spain)



Guides espagnols en exercice dans les Picos de Europa - Asturias.

UIAGM
GUIDE DE HAUTE MONTAGNE
EN ESPAGNE :
UNE PROFESSION QUI
SE CONSOLIDE

Texte : Javier Garrido Velasco
Guide de Haute Montagne UIAGM, Président de l'AEGM
Traduction : Flavie André
Photos : Javier Garrido Velasco



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UIAGM

Ces dernières

années, l'Association Espagnole des Guides de Montagne (AEGM), avait été écartée de l'UIAGM suite à des difficultés pour maintenir la qualité de la formation des guides espagnols. Grâce au travail mené depuis 2010 conjointement par l'AEGM et l'UIAGM, les guides espagnols devraient de nouveau être reconnus par l'UIAGM. Javier Garrido, président de l'AEGM revient sur l'évolution de cette association riche en histoire, et déterminée à retrouver sa place auprès des autres pays membres de l'UIAGM.

GUIDES
LA REVUE

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Dans les années 1890, les habitants du massif des Picos de Europa, dans les Asturies, guidaient déjà les montagnards qui venaient de partout en Espagne pour escalader ces montagnes sauvages. De nombreux aristocrates français faisaient également le voyage avec leurs guides, de Góvarrie ou de Pau, et prenaient des guides locaux pour grimper dans cette zone. Parmi eux se trouvait le Comte de Saint Faud, mais aussi Ludovic Fontan de Negrin et d'autres.

Le 4 août 1904, le Marquis de Villavicosa, Don Pedro Pidal, grimpa pour la première fois le Naranjo de Bulnes (« El Picu ») avec le guide Gregorio Pérez (appelé « el Cainajo »), par la voie classique de la face nord cotée aujourd'hui en V+. Cette ascension fut le premier événement marquant de notre profession en Espagne.

Depuis cette date, l'activité de guide n'a jamais cessé dans notre pays. Les années 80 et 90 ont été déterminantes. La croissance économique a permis à notre société de se développer, en même temps que le loisir et la montagne. En 1993 l'Association Espagnole des Guides de Montagne (AEGM) a été créée, grâce au regroupement d'associations qui existaient déjà depuis 25 ans (comme la Compagnie Nationale des Guides de Montagne). L'AEGM regroupe désormais tous les guides de montagne du territoire espagnol, qu'il représente auprès de l'UIAGM depuis 1994.

Comme pour d'autres pays, le processus d'harmonisation de notre métier a reposé sur la nécessité de mettre de l'ordre dans le diplôme et les conditions d'exercice du métier, mais aussi sur celle de régulariser complètement tous ses aspects professionnels. Au jour d'aujourd'hui, nous nous approchons du niveau d'autres pays qui nous ont toujours servi de modèles, comme la France ou la Suisse.



La formation des guides dans notre pays est passée du cadre amateur et fédéral à un enseignement instauré par l'Etat et encadré par les Communautés Autonomes. Le mode d'organisation de notre gouvernement (décentralisé) et la méconnaissance des responsables de formation (personnel de l'Education nationale, non guide) des particularités de cet environnement spécifique ont entraîné une série de problèmes que nous sommes en train de résoudre.

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Petit résumé de ce processus en quelques dates :

• Entre 1993 et 1999, l'UIAGM a organisé quatre formations pour les guides qui exerçaient déjà en Espagne. Ceci a permis à 70 guides d'obtenir l'accréditation UIAGM, avec la possibilité de demander une équivalence de titre dans les pays alpins dont la France. Ces formations ont eu lieu à l'École Espagnole de Haute Montagne de Benasque (Aragon), au pied du glacier de l'Aneto (3404 m, le plus haut des Pyrénées), noyau de l'alpinisme espagnol et actuellement seul centre en charge de cette formation sur le territoire.

• En 2000, de nouvelles formations de « Technicien des sports de montagne » ont été mises en place, en accord avec la réglementation espagnole. Ces enseignements, reposant sur la plate-forme de l'UIAGM, ont été réajustés pour correspondre à la législation de notre pays.

• L'UIAGM, qui a contrôlé cette formation à plusieurs reprises, a estimé qu'elle ne réunissait pas les pré requis minimum exigés par sa plate-forme en terme de qualité (niveaux techniques) et de structuration (condition d'accès, dénomination, durée, etc).

• En 2006, l'UIAGM a décidé de ne pas reconnaître la nouvelle formation des guides espagnols jusqu'à ce que des modifications soient faites pour garantir les exigences de sa plate - forme internationale.

L'AEGM, consciente de ce problème et de l'importance d'appartenir à l'UIAGM, s'est efforcée depuis ses débuts de faire correspondre la formation de ses guides aux standards internationaux. Elle a travaillé avec les responsables du Conseil Supérieur des Sports, avec ceux en charge de l'Éducation des Communautés autonomes et avec tous les organismes impliqués dans la formation pour que les nouveaux titulaires du diplôme puissent obtenir un agrément international, sans passer par des mesures compensatoires.

Pour 2010 et 2011, grâce aux efforts de l'UIAGM et de l'AEGM, une seule session de formation des guides de haute montagne a été prévue en Espagne, ce qui devrait donner une qualification suffisante pour reconnaître notre diplôme au niveau international. Les changements structurels de cette formation doivent vite s'opérer et nous pensons y arriver d'ici deux ans. Nous sommes sûrs que la motivation des guides impliqués dans cette refonte, de l'AEGM et de nombreux secteurs de l'Éducation du pays aboutira à une reconnaissance définitive de nos guides dans le cadre européen et international.

Dans un pays qui rassemble des champions du monde d'escalade et de ski alpinisme, des guides qui ont enchaîné les 14 sommets de plus de 8000 m et d'autres qui ont réalisé la première hivernale en solitaire à cette altitude, et avec plus de 120 ans d'histoire de l'activité de guide, nous ne pouvons nous tenir éloignés du monde des guides.



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APPENDIX 9: Status of the countries & qualification IFMGA

Country	Member since	Examination fixed by the state	National/regional professional law	National association	#Guides IFMGA
Switzerland	1965	NAT	REG	YES	1121
France	1965	NAT	NAT	YES	1227
Austria	1965	NAT	REG	YES	1164
Italy	1965	NAT	REG	REG	937
Germany	1969	NAT	REG	YES	350
Canada	1973	REG	REG	YES	118
Great Britain	1977	NO	NO	YES	140
New Zealand	1981	NO	NO	YES	33
Norway	1982	NO	NO	YES	55
Peru	1990	NAT	NAT	YES	74
Japan	1991	NO	NO	YES	46
Spain	1994	NAT	REG	YES	66
Slovakia	1996	NAT	NAT	YES	40
Slovenia	1997	NAT	NAT	YES	37
Sweden	1997	NO	NAT	YES	28
USA	1997	NAT	REG	YES	45
Bolivia	2004	YES	NO	YES	27
Poland	2005	NAT	NO	YES	20
Argentina	2005	NAT	NO	YES	17
Czec Republic	2006	NAT	NAT	YES	13
Greece	Susp	NO	NO	YES	5
Nepal	Cand				
Chile	Int				4
Venezuela	Int				4
Ecuador	Int				
Bulgarien	Int				
Khirgystan	Cand				
Russland	Int				
Rumänien	Int				

Legend:

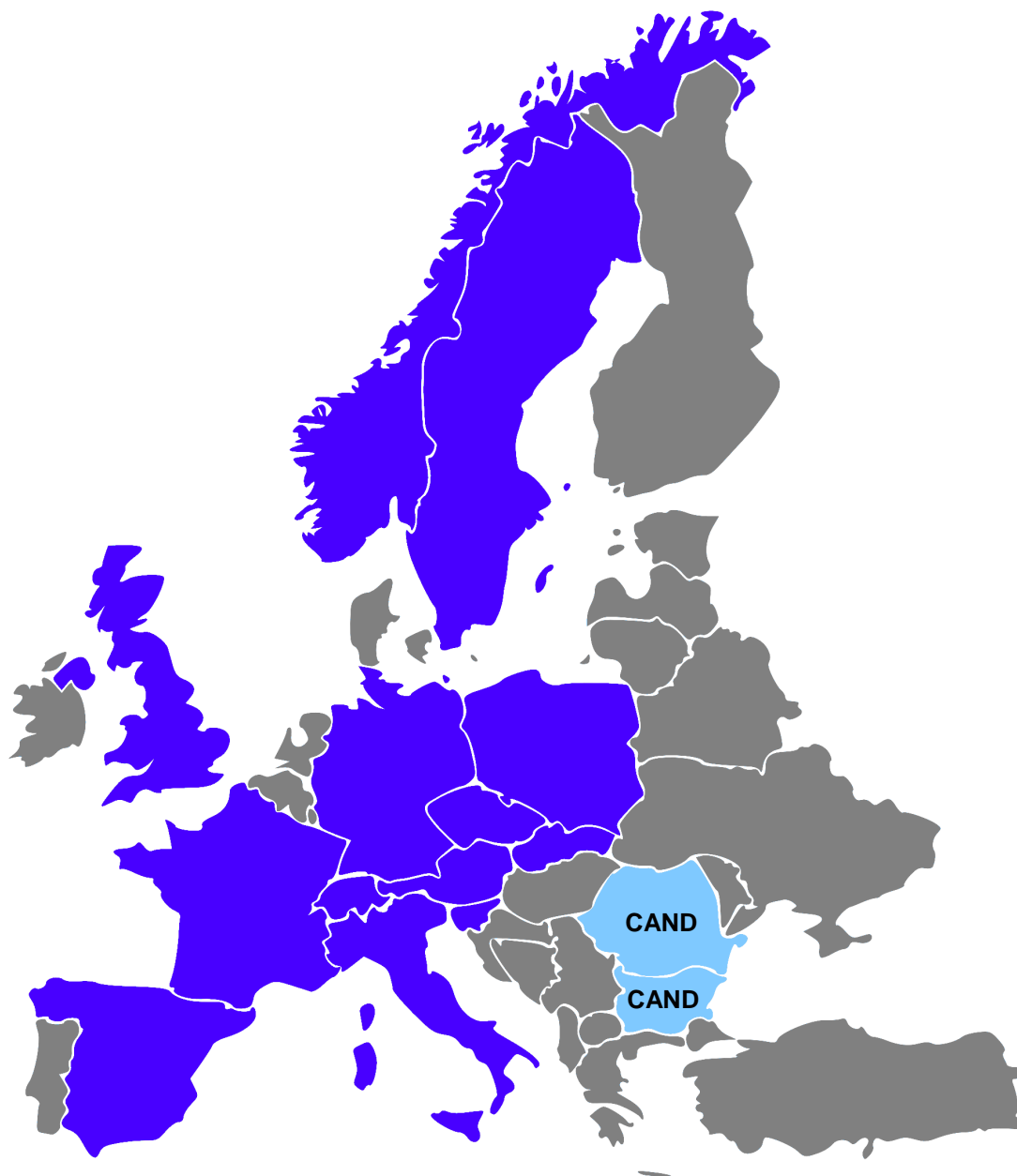
NAT National
REG Regional
PART Partial
Susp Suspended
Cand Candidate
Int Interested



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APPENDIX 9a: Status of the countries & splitting in Europe

(+ Schengen) IFMGA





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APPENDIX 10: Organization chart IFMGA

