

General background  
**CERTIFICATION**  
**GUIA / INSTRUCTOR**  
(Leader / Instructor)



Asociación Chilena de Guías/Instructores de Montaña y Escalada  
Chilean Mountaineering and Climbing Leaders/Instructors Association

**Index:**

1. Introduction .....	3
2. Objectives .....	4
2.1. General Objectives .....	4
2.2. Specific Objectives .....	4
2.3. Stages .....	4
3. General Description of the Guía/Instructor certification .....	5
3.1. Classification of the certification .....	5
3.2. Equivalence of regulations .....	5
4. Training standards for Guías/Instructores .....	7
4.1. Description .....	7
4.2. Training Model .....	7
5. History and Timeline .....	8
5.1. The beginnings of the Escuela Nacional de Montaña (National Mountaineering School) and of the ACGM .....	8
5.2. Timeline of events of the Guía/Instructor Certification .....	9

## 1. Introduction

The Guía/Instructor Certification was developed by a group of Instructors and Guides that work professionally in mountain and climbing sports. It was officially launched in the year 2009.

The Guía/Instructor Certification was developed with the aim to classify the professionals according to the different disciplines, taking into account both national and international regulations. The principle guidelines for the Guía/Instructor Certification are described in the “Training Standard for Guía/Instructor of mountaineering and climbing activities”<sup>1</sup> (from now on “Guía/Instructor Training Standard”), where the different professional training schemes are described, most importantly:

- Detailed description of the professional, sports and technical skills involved
- Description of the activities and the environment in which each professional works
- Training programmes and their respective hourly loads
- Definition of the activities:
  - o Mountaineering
  - o Alpinism
  - o Ski Mountaineering
  - o Sport Climbing
  - o Rock Climbing

The Federación de Andinismo de Chile (Chilean Andinism Federation; FEACH) was in charge of the administrative side of the Guía/Instructor Certification, whilst the professional training programmes were handled by the Escuela Nacional de Montaña (National Mountaineering School; ENAM) ever since its foundation in 1971. Later on, the Mountaineering, Sport Climbing and Ski Mountaineering training programmes were certified to meet the UIAA Training Standards (TS UIAA)<sup>2</sup>.

The Guía/Instructor Certification forms the pillar for the Asociación Chilena de Guías/Instructores de Montaña y Escalada (Chilean Mountaineering and Climbing Leader/Instructor Association, ACGM), therefore:

- The ACGM members must have been previously certified as Guías/Instructores
- The principal objective of the ACGM is to maintain the certification and training of Guías/Instructores in accordance with the “Guía/Instructor Training Standard”

The Guía/Instructor Certification has become Chile’s most important entity in the accreditation of mountaineering and climbing professionals, being the only certification that associates an educational format with an evaluative format of professional skills specifically designed for Chile. At the same time, it is the only certification that gives structure to an association of Chilean guides such as the ACGM.

At the end of the year 2014, almost 100 professionals have been certified as Guía/Instructor through training programmes or approval processes and 45 of these are now members of the ACGM.

---

<sup>1</sup> Official document that describes the bases of the Professional Guía/Instructor Training Programmes

<sup>2</sup> UIAA standards for the Guía/Instructor training programmes

## 2. Objectives

### 2.1. General Objectives

To develop a certification for Guías/Instructores in the various mountain and climbing activities, that is adapted to current national regulations and laws and considering international regulations .

### 2.2. Specific Objectives

- Create a training format for Guías/Instructores based on national and international regulations
- Contribute certified professionals to national sports activities
- Develop professional sports programmes according to international educational and safety standards
- Contribute professional and technical information to national sports through individual or collective activities carried out by the Guías/Instructores
- 

### 2.3. Stages

Here the main activities of the first three stages will be described. Of these, the first two stages have been completed.

First stage (completed)

- Define the technical and professional skills of the Guías/Instructores
- Develop an approval process for the Guías/Instructores as a starting point for the certification
- Create a standard for the training process for Guías/Instructores

Second stage (completed)

- Design and develop the professional training processes for
  - o Sport Climbing
  - o Mountaineering
  - o Ski Mountaineering
- Certify the training processes with the UIAA Training Standards
  - o Sport Climbing
  - o Mountaineering
  - o Ski Mountaineering

Third Stage (in development)

- Design and develop the professional training processes for
  - o Rock Climbing
  - o Alpinism
- ACGM membership of the UIMLA, certifying the Mountaineering Level 1 training process.

### 3. General Description of the Guía/Instructor certification

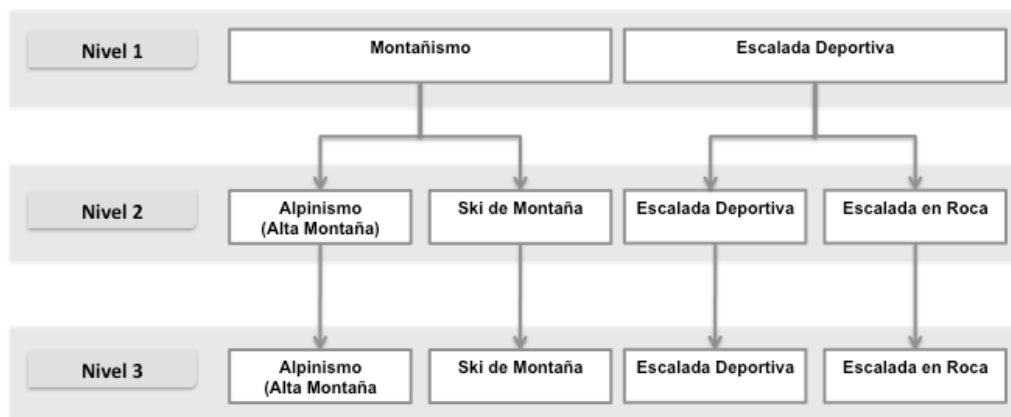
#### 3.1. Classification of the certification

The certification of Guía/Instructor classifies the professionals according to “Technical Area” and by “Level”. The technical areas link and/or group together the different activities related to mountaineering and climbing, representing both the national context and that of the UIAA. These are:

- Mountaineering (Montañismo)
- Alpinism (Alpinismo)
- Rock Climbing (Escalada en Roca)
- Ski Mountaineering (Ski de Montaña)
- Sport Climbing (Escalada Deportiva)

The “levels” represent the level of specialisation of the Guías/Instructores and is related to their technical skills, encompassing both sports and educational skills.

- Level 1. Leaders
- Level 2. Specialist Leaders
- Level 3. Specialist Trainers



#### 3.2. Equivalence of regulations

The “Guía/Instructor Training Standard” has been set up considering the following documents:

- “Training Standards” by the UIAA (Union Internationale des Associations d’Alpinisme, International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation)
- Quality in Tourism Standards that have been developed by the Instituto Nacional de Normalización de Chile (Chilean National Standards Institute; INN).
- The Chilean Olympic Committee’s (COCH) structure for sports professionals

Furthermore, the “Mountaineering” area was adapted to the training format of the Union of International Mountain Leader Associations (UIMLA) :

- UIMLA Standard (Standard for access to and practise of the profession of the International Mountain Leader)

GUIDE / INSTRUCTOR		Training Standards UIAA	Regulation INN Adventure Tourism	COCH	
Level 1	• Mountaineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mountain Walking and Trekking (summer)</li> <li>• Winter Mountain Walking and Snowshoeing</li> </ul> Special Specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Altitude</li> <li>• Avalanche Terrain</li> </ul> Certified TS UIAA 2014	• Montaña NCh2962	Técnico Nivel 1	
	• Sport Climbing	Sport Climbing (indoor and outdoor)  Special Specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-pitch</li> </ul> Certified TS UIAA 2013			
Level 2	• Alpinism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpine Climbing</li> </ul> Special Specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Altitude</li> <li>• Avalanche Terrain</li> </ul>		• Alta Montaña NCh2951	Técnico Nivel 2
	• Rock Climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rock Climbing (leader placed protection)</li> </ul> Special Specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-pitch</li> </ul>	• Escalada en Roca NCh03018		
	• Ski Mountaineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ski Mountaineering</li> </ul> Special Specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Altitude</li> <li>• Avalanche Terrain</li> </ul> Certified TS UIAA 2014	• Esquí NCh3017		
	• Sport Climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport Climbing (indoor and outdoor)</li> </ul> Special Specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-pitch</li> </ul>			
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpinism</li> <li>• Ski Mountaineering</li> <li>• Rock Climbing</li> <li>• Sport Climbing</li> </ul>			Técnico deportivo Nivel 3	

## 4. Training standards for Guías/Instructores

### 4.1. Description

The “Training Standard for Guía/Instructor of mountaineering and climbing activities” defines the structure of the technical training programmes for those who operate as Guides and Instructors in one of the mountaineering and/or climbing areas.

The main technical skills for the Guías/Instructores are:

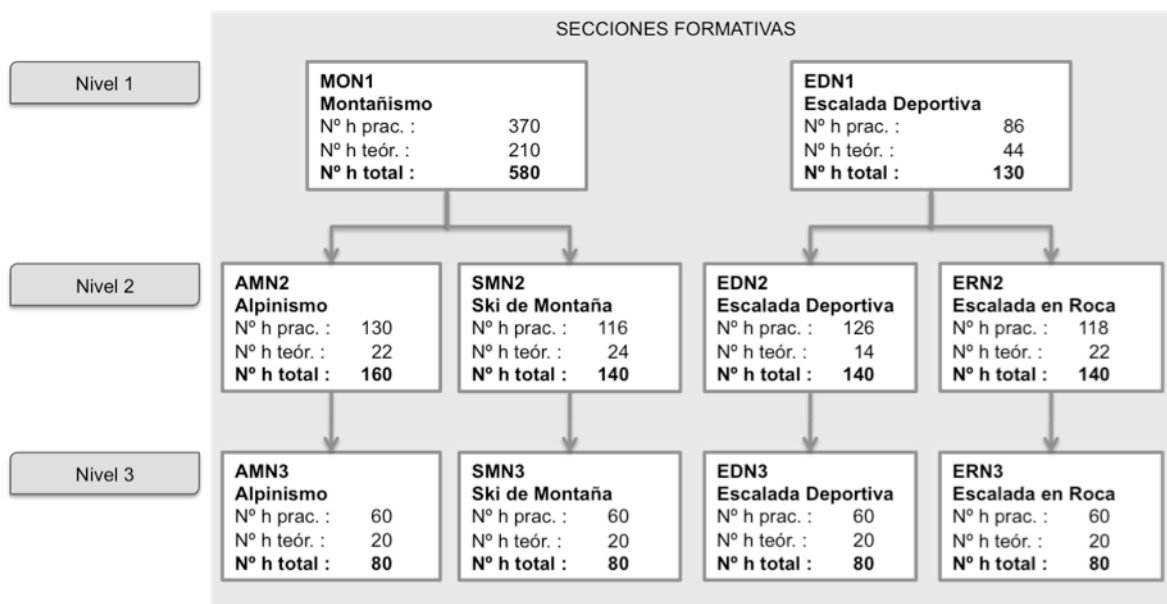
- Leading groups
- Planning and carrying out training sessions
- Design and development of sport recreational skills training programmes

### 4.2. Training Model

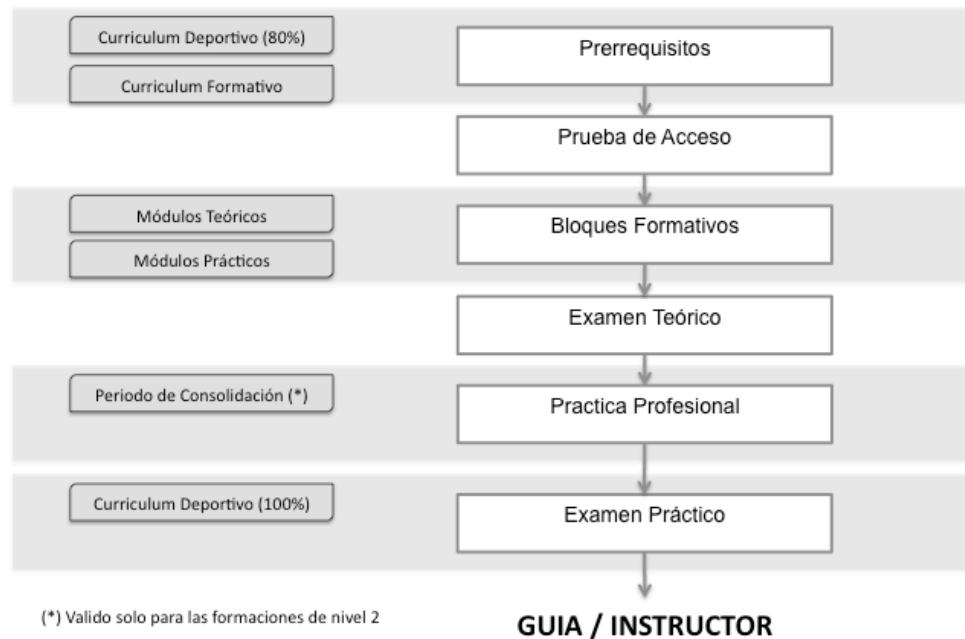
The training model is made up of ten “Training Sections”, which are:

1. MON1 : Mountaineering – Level 1
2. EDN1 : Sport Climbing – Level 1
3. AMN2 : Alpinism – Level 2
4. SMN2 : Ski Mountaineering – Level 2
5. EDN2 : Sport Climbing – Level 2
6. ERN2 : Rock Climbing – Level 2
7. AMN3 : Alpinism – Level 3
8. SMN3 : Ski Moutaineering – Level 3
9. EDN3 : Sport Climbing – Level 3
10. ERN3 : Rock Climbing – Level 3

Below, the different training sections are shown schematically along with their respective hourly loads.



Each section's training programme is based on 6 units. Each unit is completed independently and in a similar order for all the training sections. The following flow diagram shows the units and their order of execution.



## 5. History and Timeline

### 5.1. The beginnings of the Escuela Nacional de Montaña (National Mountaineering School) and of the ACGM

In 1971, the Escuela Nacional de Montaña, ENAM, was founded by experienced mountaineers who had the vision of: “teaching Chileans to climb mountains and move in this terrain in a safe fashion”. The main aim was to reduce the number of accidents occurring in the mountains. For that reason, the ENAM first trained mountaineering instructors, which then permitted the ENAM to systematically carry out recreational training programmes open to the general public and technical training programmes for Instructors and Guides.

In 2008, the DT-FEACH (Technical Direction of FEACH) was set up to structure, standardise and certify the training programmes of Guías/Instructores within the FEACH. After 2009, the new certification of Guías/Instructores was launched. The first stage was an approval process based on three categories of skills: sportive, educational and professional. Those Guides and Instructors that had been accredited through previous technical training programmes of the ENAM as well as those professionals that had been trained by other means could apply. The approval process included theoretical and practical exams as well as training modules to standardise syllabus contents .

From 2010 onwards the ENAM started to develop the technical training programmes according to the new parameters described in the “Guía/Instructor Training Standard”.



In the year 2013, the certified Guías/Instructores set up the Asociación Chilena de Guías/Instructores de Montaña y Escalada (Chilean Mountaineering and Climbing Leader/Instructor Association, ACGM) to maintain the certification and training of Guías/Instructores in Chile.

## 5.2. Timeline of events of the Guía/Instructor Certification

### 2008

- Presentation of the Guía/Instructor project
- Founding of the DT-FEACH (Technical Direction) to develop and administer the Guía/Instructor certification

### 2009

- The training project is presented at the MC (Mountaineering Commission) UIAA meeting in France
- The technical, sports and professional skills of the Guías/Instructores are detailed
- The first approval round of the Guías/Instructores is held with over 70 participants
- The first Guía/Instructor seminar is held

### 2010

- The first training programme of Mountaineering Guía/Instructor Level 1 is set up and carried out
- The second Guía/Instructor approval round is held with over 40 participants
- The second Guía/Instructor seminar is held

### 2011

- Final technical corrections of the “Training Standard for Guía/Instructor of mountaineering and climbing activities”
- Completion of the “ Sport Climbing Guía/Instructor Training programme handbook“

### 2012

- The first MC (Mountaineering Commission UIAA) meeting in Chile is held
- The UIAA MC evaluates the Sport Climbing Level 1 Guía/Instructor training in the field

### 2013

- The UIAA certifies the Sport Climbing Level 1 training programme
- Completion of the “ Mountaineering Level 1 Guía/Instructor Training programme handbook“
- **Foundation of the Asociación Chilena de Guías/Instructores de Montaña y Escalada (Chilean Mountaineering and Climbing Guía/Instructor Association, ACGM) that brings together those professionals certified as Guía/Instructor.**
- The third Guía/Instructor seminar is held.

### 2014

- The UIAA certifies the training programmes of:
  - Mountaineering Level 1
  - Ski Mountaineering Level 2