

# **Test Technique and Eurotest : clarity on how they fit in the French system.**

By Dave Renouf- BASI Operations Manager

I have been involved with BASI for a long time and was glad to be of service to the Association when my languages were of particular use to converse and negotiate with our snowsport colleagues across the water in France.

We have come a long way since those days back in the mid 90's when Bob Kinnaird and I went to numerous meetings with the French at the EU commission in Brussels to sort out getting recognition for the BASI qualifications.

It is for this reason that I write to you now to ensure that BASI gives you the state of play as it now stands, for two particular race orientated tests that the French have within their system for French natives to get qualified; the Test Technique and the Eurotest.

The Eurotest has evolved from the Test de Capacité Technique (pre 1997) that was part of the "3ÈME Cycle" entry requirements (about level with BASI ISTD Teaching and Technical courses) that took place at ENSA (Ecole Nationale de Ski et d'Alpinisme) in Chamonix. This test was, at that time, a slalom based test (with the same criteria as now for passing, i.e. have a time within 18% of the opener's zero FIS point time). Through Bob K's and my negotiations and with Austrian and Italian influences, this test is now a Giant Slalom based test called the Eurotest.

Along with Austria, Italy and Germany, BASI has incorporated this Eurotest into the syllabus for getting the ISTD qualification, which is, as you know a qualification recognised throughout Europe as being equivalent to other EU Alpine nation's top qualification so that holders can apply for Right of Establishment to work in those countries.

There is another race based test called the Test Technique that BASI has no jurisdiction over, as this is a test within the French training system only and for becoming French qualified (BEES 1° degree option ski alpin). The Test Technique is a slalom based test with bigger margins for passing (if you know the standards of the ESF racing awards, it is Chamois Vermeil level). The minimum level that ENSA recognise from the BASI qualifications to enter this test is Level 2. The Test Technique does not fit into any part of the BASI system. Candidates on their way to ISTD do not have to do the Test Technique. Only if they want to work in France in a French recognised school.

However, if you do want to work in France but don't have your ISTD you will need to do the Test Technique to obtain a French training system log book. On success of doing the Test Technique the log book (livret de formation) is valid for 4 years. With a log book, the holder can only work for a recognised sports education centre of which most ESFs are. You will be assigned a mentor from the ski school to follow your progress until you become fully qualified either in the French system (where your knowledge of the language would have to be fluent) or by continuing through to your BASI ISTD.

For those people who on their way to getting their ISTD and who have successfully completed the Eurotest but still have other modules to complete before getting this qualification, they would still have to do the Test Technique if they wanted to work in France. There are no exemptions, as everyone has to do the Test Technique in France. As I've said, if you don't want to work in France then you can totally ignore the Test Technique.

I hope this is clear now. Even if you have your ISIA and the Eurotest, if you want to work in France you WILL have to do the Test Technique, so get slalom training!  
If you don't want to work in France, then just train GS for the Eurotest.  
It's as simple as that.

Moreover, for your information, if you are going to do the Eurotest, the minimum ski requirements for the season 2009/10 are Men: minimum length 185cm, minimum turning radius 21m. For women: 180cm minimum length, and minimum turning radius being the same as men at 21m. I wish you all the very best in your training for your various Slalom and/or Giant Slalom tests.