

**From:** LEONARD Catherine <[Catherine.Leonard@eurostar.com](mailto:Catherine.Leonard@eurostar.com)>  
**Sent:** 10 March 2022 14:13  
**To:** Stuart Younie <stuart@mountaineering.scot>  
**Subject:** Eurostar policy

Dear Stuart

Many thanks for your letter to Simon Le Jeune dated 14<sup>th</sup> February, and for your time on the phone earlier this week.

Simon passed your query on to me to investigate and I just wanted to confirm, as per our conversation, that the luggage policy on the carrying of mountaineering equipment on Eurostar has not changed since your contact with Nicolas Petrovic in 2013.

**To be clear, you are able to bring mountaineering equipment with you when you travel by Eurostar. We ask only that any passenger carrying this kind of equipment makes themselves known to a member of the Eurostar team in the station on arrival so that they can ensure the smooth passage through the security/baggage check.**

**Our website team have been briefed to remove the reference to ice axe, climbing and mountaineering equipment from the dangerous sports equipment section, and I expect this to be completed next week.**

I do hope this clarifies the situation and I am sorry for any confusion this might have caused.

We welcome your support for Eurostar as the greener way to travel and look forward to seeing more members of the climbing and mountaineering community on board.

With kind regards,

Catherine

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14 February 2022

Simon Lejeune

Chief Operating Officer

**Eurostar International Ltd**

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[simon.lejeune@eurostar.com](mailto:simon.lejeune@eurostar.com)

Dear Simon

**Classification of climbing and mountaineering equipment as “dangerous sports equipment”**

I write on behalf of Mountaineering Scotland, the British Mountaineering Council and Mountaineering Ireland who collectively represent over 109,000 members, to ask for your assistance in resolving an issue which has been raised by one of our biggest member clubs, the Eagle Ski Club and will also be of concern to many of our members.

The current luggage policy on the Eurostar service classifies climbing and mountaineering equipment as “dangerous sports equipment”. Whilst we understand the need to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of passengers we believe this policy is likely to discourage many people from using this service to travel to Europe.

<https://www.eurostar.com/uk-en/travel-info/travel-planning/luggage/sports-and-camping-equipment>

The specific issue of transporting ice axes was raised previously with Eurostar and I understand was resolved as a result of an intervention by your previous Chief Executive, Nicolas Petrovic but we now appear to have taken a step backwards on what was agreed at the time. Please see the article published on the BMC website in 2013 here:

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/eurostar-confirms-change-of-policy-on-ice-axes>

The policy as worded now suggests additional restrictions on more general climbing and mountaineering equipment e.g. ice axes, crampons, ropes, harnesses and other technical equipment.

Climbers, mountaineers and ski tourers are very aware of the impact of climate change and our organisations have a collective desire to promote sustainable travel to Europe. We think there is a great opportunity to work with Eurostar and engage our membership through our member publications and communication channels (including our significant following on social media), to promote travel by train as the “greener way to go”. The current luggage policy presents a joint challenge for us in grasping this opportunity.

We are aware of similar challenges relating to the carriage of climbing and mountaineering equipment on other European train services. We believe that our community would very much welcome Eurostar taking a lead on this issue, recognising that participation in outdoor sport and recreation including climbing, mountaineering and ski touring are major reasons for people looking travel to and from the UK and Europe particularly as we emerge from the pandemic.

We are grateful for your time in considering our correspondence and would be very happy to meet online to discuss the issue and provide any further information you may require.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Younie

CEO Mountaineering Scotland

On behalf of:

Paul Davis, CEO, British Mountaineering Council

Murrough McDonagh, CEO, Mountaineering Ireland