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## Spectacular Fake Check by TV magazine “Galileo“

A TV spot shows a woman walking on a rope which is stretched between two trucks both driving at a speed of 80 km/h. The first thing you must think is that this is absolutely crazy. That is why the Pro Sieben TV show Galileo wanted to find out whether this stunt was a fake or if it is really possible to do this.

Galileo chose an exceptionally talented athlete to reproduce this stunt as professionally as possible. Alexander Schulz holds three world championship titles for highlining (which is slacklining at extreme heights) which makes him the perfect candidate to carry out this fake check which was prepared and tested thoroughly. At a speed of 80 km/h, wind plays an extremely important part.



For safety reasons, the check was first carried out stationarily. The speed of the trucks was simulated by artificial wind. The wind strength was measured by means of the PCE-A420 anemometer, a digital cup anemometer with which the wind direction did not affect the measurement. Even stationarily, the stunt seemed to be impossible at 80 km/h as the wind pressure was enormous.

Galileo were still keen to find out, so they chose an aircraft runway to reproduce the stunt. It was important that the trucks kept the exact distance while driving as otherwise the slackline would have torn. The first thing to find out was how easily a slackline like this tears. This was tested with the help of two precision drivers and a force gauge. The slackline was connected with a force gauge of the PCE-FB series in order to find out how much force is necessary to tear the slackline. Force gauges of the PCE-FB series can hold a tensile strength of up to 10 t. According to the force gauge, the slackline tore at a tensile strength of just under 3 t and fluttered too much before tearing. Evidently, reproducing this stunt with a slackline is not possible. Therefore, they decided to use a rope made of polyethylene which can hold a tensile strength of as much as 7 t. The stunt was finally carried out with an additional overhead protection which was kept at tension all the time by means of weight counterbalance. It was impossible for Alexander Schulz to cross the rope at a speed of 80 km/h. The wind pressure was too strong to overcome, so the stunt was impossible at 80 km/h but Alex finally made it at a lower speed.

To sum up, Galileo proved that the stunt in which a woman walks from one driving truck to another on a rope is actually possible, using modern technology like a PCE anemometer and a PCE force gauge.