

The **Polar Expeditions Classification Scheme (PECS)** is a grading and labelling system for extended, unmotorised polar journeys. It promotes universally-accepted vocabulary through its labels, terms and definitions and through the inclusion or absence of standardised Label Elements such as Solo, Unsupported and Full. Any words in **Red** may be used in a Label.



ELEMENT	DETAILS				LABEL USAGE
TEAM SIZE	SOLO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A single person traveling alone for the entire length of a journey.• A soloist may not tack onto other teams or soloists and still claim to be solo.• A soloist should break trail for much of the journey.• Fleeting encounters are permitted.			In the absence of Solo in the label, Team is assumed
	TEAM	More than one person at the commencement of a journey			
AID	Will the journey benefit from any aid between start and end? A journey is SUPPORTED if:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• it is resupplied• it off-loads or discards anything during the journey, except for human waste and greywater collected south of 89°S• it enters any building, aircraft or tent other than its own• it travels on or next to a road, vehicle track or flagged route, except when following routes into, out of or around bases, stations and camps as directed by authorities.• it is aided by a vehicle providing either physical or psychological support• a team member is evacuated			A journey is Unsupported if it denies the use of all forms of Support In the absence of Unsupported in the label, Supported is assumed
MARGINS	The start and end points of a journey. A Journey is:	FULL	if it utilises a coastal margin/s (fronted by sea or annual sea ice)		In the absence of Full or Partial in the label, Not Full is assumed
		NOT FULL	if it utilises inner coastal/perimeter margin/s		
		PARTIAL	if it utilises inland or offshore (North Pole) margin/s		
		Last Degree and Double Degree expeditions are not classified under PECS			
PATH	A journey's route between start and end.	EXPEDITION	One Way, Return, Alternate Return, Reverse		All Paths are either Full , Not Full or Partial
		CROSSING	a traverse of a landmass or ocean		
		CIRCUMNAVIGATION	a unidirectional circular path		The Path must be included in the label
MODE OF TRAVEL	The methods or combination of methods used to move or propel expeditioners on a journey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dogsled• Kite-Ski• Paddle• Pedal Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pedal-Ski• Row• Run• Ski	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ski-Paddle• Snowkite• Snowsail• Snowshoe	The Mode of Travel must be included in the label.
		Each Mode of Travel typically but not necessarily utilises a sled. Verified sub-categories such as Fat-Bike or Catamaran or Kite-Board may be used.			
GUIDED	A guided journey is not considered Supported because the term does not apply to the guide. However clients must recognise and acknowledge that the apportioning of planning, skill and risk is vastly different between guided and unguided journeys. A journey Description must include reference to it being guided.				

LABEL EXAMPLES	
South Pole Ski Expedition	A ski team starting from Hercules Inlet (inner coastline) to the South Pole and collecting a resupply at Thiel Corner Skiway
Solo Unsupported Full Kite-Ski Crossing of Antarctica	A solo unsupported kite-skier crossing Antarctica from Gould Bay to Bay of Whales (coast to coast) via the South Pole
Unsupported Greenland Kite-Ski Crossing	An unsupported team kite-skiing across the Greenland icecap, starting at Point 660 (above sea level) and ending at Isortoq (sea level)
Full Reverse North Pole Ski Expedition	A resupplied team skiing from North Pole to Ward Hunt Island, Canada
A Description should accompany a Label and include additional details such as team size, genders, distance, duration, nationalities and if a team is guided.	

For full definitions, guidelines and maps visit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/j6xivda4o7ek958/PECS%20Definitions%20and%20Guidelines.pdf?dl=0>