

Plan and prepare for commercial river trips

Level 4

Credits 5

Purpose This unit standard is intended for people who work guiding commercial river trips.

People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe the rules, regulations and safety guidelines governing commercial river operations in New Zealand; utilise weather and river flow information sources in trip planning; prepare equipment and participate in safety planning for guiding river trips; screen participants for suitability for river trips; and provide customer service to participants in preparation for river trips.

Subfield Outdoor Recreation

Domain Rafting

Status Proposed

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Entry information Open.

Accreditation Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.

Standard setting body (SSB) Skills Active Aotearoa Limited

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0099

This AMAP can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Special notes

- 1 All activities must comply with the policies, procedures and requirements of the operator involved and any relevant legislative and/or regulatory requirements which include but are not limited to: Department of Conservation *Environmental Care and Water Care Code*, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act 2001, Maritime Transport Act 1994, Maritime Rule Part 80, Maritime Rule Part 91 and their subsequent amendments, and relevant Maritime New Zealand safety guidelines.

- 2 All river guiding activities must be logged. Logged information must include but is not limited to – dates, river, section, duration, water level, grade, craft type, trip leader, participant and guide numbers, accidents and incidents. Log books can be obtained from New Zealand Rafting Association <http://www.nz-rafting.co.nz> .
- 3 This unit standard is part of the National Raft Guide Award Grade III and Grade IV/V, and is intended to form part of the National Whitewater Boarding Guide Award and the Inflatable Craft Group Guiding Award under development by Maritime New Zealand <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/>.
- 4 Recommended resource – *Whitewater Safety and Rescue*, Franco Ferrero, 2nd Edition, Pesda Press 2006. <http://www.pesdapress.com>
- 5 Behaviour during assessment demonstrates environmental care and consideration of other river users, consistent with the Environmental Care Code, and current industry practice.
- 6 Definitions
Current industry practice refers to practices propagated through industry national forums, newsletters, and assessments and which are generally accepted by experienced practitioners as safe and relevant. These will be consistent with any applicable regulatory requirements and/or manufacturer’s recommendations. Applicable regulatory requirements and manufacturer’s recommendations may be specified in performance criteria where required for particular emphasis.
Organisational requirements refer to policy and procedures of the outdoor activities organisation, and include compliance with any applicable legislation, standards, and codes.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Describe the rules, regulations, codes of practice, and safety guidelines governing commercial river operations in New Zealand.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The New Zealand River Guide award, training pathways and the operational parameters for each type and level of river guide award are described.
- 1.2 The roles and responsibilities of a river guide are described in terms of relevant legislation, rules, guidelines, and/or codes of practice.

Element 2

Utilise weather and river grade and flow information in trip planning.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 A range of weather and river flow information sources are accessed to determine river trip safety parameters.

Range information sources - NIWA, Met Service, Regional Council.

- 2.2 River volume is estimated in accordance with current industry practice.
- 2.3 Current river conditions are assessed in terms of the river grading system currently in use in New Zealand.
- 2.4 Trip planning is adjusted in accordance with forecast weather patterns and their indicators and their effect on catchment areas, local river conditions and local climate.
- 2.5 Forecast weather is compared to actual weather conditions and judgement is reached on any further adjustments required to trip plan.

Element 3

Prepare equipment and participate in planning for guiding river trips.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Participate in, and describe the importance of, pre and post trip guide meetings and documentation of trip planning and trip reporting requirements.
- 3.2 Assist in equipment preparation according to current industry practice.
- 3.3 Equipment is stored and maintained in accordance with current industry practice.

Element 4

Screen participants for suitability for river trips.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Participants are assessed as being suitable for the nature of the physical demands of the river trip.

Range age and physical considerations, medical conditions, pre-existing injuries, swimming abilities, propensity to panic
- 4.2 Participants presenting safety and or special needs are identified to the trip leader.

Element 5

Provide customer service to participants in preparation for river trips.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Participants are provided with the information required to facilitate successful river trips including river etiquette, environmental care, and any cultural issues.

- 5.2 Participants are advised of the risks associated with moving water, and their understanding of the importance of following guide instructions and self responsibility is acknowledged.
- 5.3 Safety briefings are completed with participants and their understanding confirmed.
- 5.4 Participants are correctly fitted with equipment required for the river and weather conditions.
- 5.5 Interactions with participants are carried out with courtesy and in a professional manner.