

## Achievement Standard

<b>Subject Reference</b>	Earth and Space Science 3.5		
<b>Title</b>	Demonstrate understanding of processes in the atmosphere system		
<b>Level</b>	3	<b>Credits</b>	4
		<b>Assessment</b>	External
<b>Subfield</b>	Science		
<b>Domain</b>	Earth and Space Science		
<b>Status</b>	Registered	<b>Status date</b>	27 November 2025
<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2029	<b>Date version published</b>	9 December 2025

---

This achievement standard involves demonstrating understanding of processes in the atmosphere system.

### Achievement Criteria

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate understanding of processes in the atmosphere system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate in-depth understanding of processes in the atmosphere system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of processes in the atmosphere system.</li> </ul>

### Explanatory Notes

- This achievement standard is derived from *The New Zealand Curriculum*, Learning Media, Ministry of Education, 2007, Level 8, and is related to the material in the *Teaching and Learning Guide for Earth and Space Science*, Ministry of Education, 2010 at <http://seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz>. The standard is aligned to the Earth systems and Interacting systems achievement objective of the Planet Earth and Beyond strand.

This standard is also derived from *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa*. For details of *Te Marautanga o Aotearoa* achievement objectives to which this standard relates, see the [Papa Whakaako](#) for the relevant learning area.

- Demonstrate understanding* involves:
  - explaining processes and links within the processes in the atmosphere system.

*Demonstrate in-depth understanding* involves:

- explaining links between the processes in the atmosphere system.

*Demonstrate comprehensive understanding* involves:

- discussing the complexity of the atmosphere system.

3 *Processes in the atmosphere system* will be selected from:

- atmosphere composition – gases, aerosols including cloud formation, gradients (temperature, pressure, density)
- atmospheric circulation
  - convection cells (Hadley, Ferrel, Polar)
  - wind belts (Trade, Westerlies, Polar Easterlies, Doldrums)
  - Coriolis effect
- transport of matter and energy – heat, gases, aerosols
- cycles – water, carbon
- climate – global and regional trends (temperature, precipitation, El Niño-Southern Oscillation [ENSO] and the Southern Annular Mode [SAM]).

4 Assessment Specifications for this achievement standard can be found at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/>.

---

## Quality Assurance

- 1 Providers and Industry Training Organisations must have been granted consent to assess by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against achievement standards.
- 2 Organisations with consent to assess and Industry Training Organisations assessing against achievement standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those achievement standards.

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0233