

40942 Work as an operational aviation working dog handler at an airport

Kaupae Level	4
Whiwhinga Credit	30
Whāinga Purpose	<p>People credited with this skill standard are able to be responsible for the operational deployment of aviation working dogs within airport environments in support of aviation security and safety, contributing to airport security and operational effectiveness.</p> <p>The standard reflects the unique demands of working in regulated, high-security aviation contexts and promotes best practices in animal care, operational readiness, and threat response.</p>

Hua o te ako me Paearu aromatawai | Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Implement health and safety protocols for operational aviation working dogs.	a. Identify and manage risks associated with handling working dogs in operational airport environments.
	b. Apply safe handling and restraint techniques during routine operational and emergency situations.
	c. Demonstrate procedures for transporting dogs safely.
2. Develop working dog operational capabilities.	a. Apply principles of canine learning and behaviour modification.
	b. Conduct advanced obedience and agility exercises to maintain operational readiness.
	c. Evaluate training outcomes and adjust techniques to meet operational goals.
3. Patrol with an aviation working dog at an airport.	a. Plan and execute patrols in accordance with aviation security protocols.
	b. Respond to simulated or real security threats using appropriate canine handling techniques.
	c. Demonstrate control of the dog in high-stress or dynamic environments.

Pārongo aromatawai me te taumata paearu | Assessment information and grade criteria**Assessment specifications:**

Patrols may be carried out armed or unarmed.

Assessments must be conducted in an active or simulated airport environment to ensure practical application to reflect the standards of an aviation workplace.

This skill standard is intended for airport employees or contractors only, as airside assessment opportunities are restricted to those persons holding an Airport Identity Card issued by the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority under the sponsorship of an airport employer, or New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) equivalent.

Evidence presented for assessment against this skill standard must be in accordance with enterprise procedures.

Definitions:

Aerodrome means any defined area of land or water intended or designed to be used either wholly or partly for the landing, departure, and surface movement of aircraft; and includes any building, installations, and equipment on or adjacent to any such area used in connection with the aerodrome or its administration.

The term *airport* refers to aerodrome as per Civil Aviation Rules.

Aviation working dog is a generic term to describe a working dog within an aviation environment. Examples could include but are not limited to a military working dog, Aviation Security explosive detector dog, Customs detector dog, biosecurity detector dog.

Reference to *enterprise procedures* means that all activities must comply with the requirements contained in the current airport exposition, current airport company manuals and procedures, and any relevant legislative and/or regulatory requirements, which may include but are not limited to: Civil Aviation Act 2023, relevant Civil Aviation Rules, MPI Code of Welfare – Dogs, New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Policy.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Implementing health and safety protocols

- Overview of aviation workplace health and safety legislation and protocols.
- Risk assessment methodologies and mitigation strategies specific to canine operations in airport environments.
- Safe handling and restraint techniques for working dogs (routine and emergency).
- Dog transport procedures: vehicle setup, crate standards, and airport-specific logistics.
- Emergency response procedures involving working dogs (e.g. injury, aggression, evacuation).

Developing working dog operational capabilities

- Operant conditioning and reinforcement theory.
- Behaviour modification techniques for operational reliability.
- Advanced obedience and training exercises tailored for aviation contexts.
- Use of training aids and environmental conditioning.
- Scent detection or tracking techniques.
- Bite work, restraint, and controlled aggression protocols.
- Monitoring and evaluating training effectiveness.
- Adjusting training plans based on performance data and operational feedback.

Patrolling with an aviation working dog

- Aviation security protocols relevant to canine patrols.
- Patrol planning, route selection, timing, situational awareness, and coordination with airport operations.
- Threat identification and response procedures using canine assets.
- Techniques for maintaining control and focus in high-stress or dynamic environments.
- Use of force continuum and escalation protocols.
- Communication and coordination during patrols and incidents.
- Post-patrol debriefing and reporting protocols.

Rauemi | Resources

[Aviation Crimes Act 1972](#)

[CAA Advisory Circular AC140-1 Aviation Security Service Organisations – Certification](#)

Enterprise procedures.

Pārongo Whakaū Kounga | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa Standard Setting Body	Ringa Hora Services Workforce Development Council
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai DASS classification	Service Sector > Aviation > Airport Operations
Ko te tohutoro ki ngā Whakaritenga i te Whakamanatanga me te Whakaōritenga CMR	0112

Hātepe Process	Putanga Version	Rā whakaputa Review Date	Rā whakamutunga mō te aromatawai Last date for assessment
Rēhitatanga Registration	1	27 November 2025	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	This skill standard and skill standard 40941 replaced unit standard 28997.		
Rā arotake Planned review date	31 December 2030		

Please contact Ringa Hora Services Workforce Development Council qualifications@ringahora.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.