

41344 Operate a light utility vehicle (LUV) safely in complex driving conditions

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	7
Whāinga Purpose	This standard is for people working, or intending on working, in an agribusiness operation. They will be able to operate a light utility vehicle safely in complex driving conditions, with limited supervision. This skill standard is aligned to the New Zealand Certificate in Farm Skills (Level 3) [Ref: 5678].

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

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Operate a light utility vehicle (LUV) safely in complex driving conditions.	a. Operate LUV safely while following planned routes.
	b. Use vehicle controls and mechanical functions of an LUV to manage complex driving conditions.
	c. Ensure loads are securely attached and balanced, as appropriate.
	d. Maintain the stability of an LUV and mounted load while driving and turning.
	e. Report near misses, accidents, or new hazards encountered while operating LUV.

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

Assessment specifications

All activities must be carried out in accordance with workplace health and safety requirements, workplace procedures, legislative requirements, regulatory requirements, licencing requirements, and manufacturer's requirements.

Providers must give due consideration to embedding ngā kaupapa (principles) o Te Tiriti o Waitangi when designing delivery activities relevant to this standard. These principles are outlined in [Guidelines for Providers: Embedding Tirohanga Māori](#).

Providers must give due consideration to the needs and values of Pacific peoples and other cultural groups when designing delivery activities relevant to this standard, ensuring practices are inclusive and equitable.

It is recommended that ākonga/learners hold skill standard 41343, *Carry out pre-start checks and plan routes for an agribusiness vehicle*, or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills before undertaking assessment against this standard.

Ākonga/learners should be assessed against this standard in a real-life context using naturally occurring evidence. A verifier's checklist with appropriate comments confirming competency is acceptable if accompanied by evidence that includes examples from the ākonga/learner's performance which may include but is not limited to – work diaries, driving logs, machine hour records, GPS data, photographic or video evidence.

If assessment occurs outside the ākonga/learner's workplace, assessment conditions must reflect, as closely as practicable, the complexity and operating conditions likely to be encountered in the learner's intended workplace context.

Assessment must consider the ākonga/learner's behaviour while operating an LUV, including compliance with safety requirements and workplace procedures.

Ākonga/learners must maintain control of an LUV under five complex driving conditions. These conditions must include factors that materially affect vehicle handling and may include, but are not limited to:

- terrain (e.g. slopes, uneven ground)
- surface conditions (e.g. wet, loose, rough, or changing surfaces)
- load or equipment effects (e.g. mounted loads, trailed equipment, non-static loads)
- environmental factors (e.g. weather, visibility, lighting)
- operational constraints (e.g. confined spaces, obstacles, livestock, or proximity to hazards).

Complex driving conditions may arise individually or in combination and must require demonstrable adjustments to speed, positioning, control inputs, or vehicle configuration to maintain safe operation.

Where access to specific terrain-based conditions is limited, alternative conditions that create equivalent complexity in vehicle control, stability, traction, or hazard management may be used.

The size and/or weight of the mounted load must be significant enough to affect the ākonga/learner's driving technique but must be within manufacturer's specifications and must not impede the ākonga/learner's ability to drive safely.

Evidence must demonstrate consistent and reliable performance across multiple operating occasions and under conditions that materially affect vehicle stability, traction, and hazard response. Evidence must not be limited to repeated performance in substantially similar operating conditions and should include meaningful variation in factors affecting vehicle control, decision-making, or risk.

Ākonga/learners must provide a verifiable record of operating experience that demonstrates sufficient duration and frequency of practice to support the credit value of this standard. This will typically involve approximately 40 hours of LUV operation, which may be accumulated through current and/or prior experience. Evidence derived from a single or limited-duration event is unlikely to be sufficient to demonstrate the consistency and range of performance required for this standard.

Definitions

Behaviour refers to actions demonstrating compliance with safety requirements and workplace procedures. Examples include – wearing a helmet, wearing a seatbelt, operating the vehicle in a manner which minimises risk to self and others, avoiding 'no go' areas, and following instructions regarding care and maintenance of vehicles.

Complex driving conditions refers to environmental, operational, and load-related factors that increase the difficulty of controlling a vehicle and require the ākonga/learner to actively adjust driving technique to maintain stability, traction, and safety.

Light Utility Vehicle (LUV) (previously known as an ATVU or SPV) refers to a lightweight vehicle, principally designed for off road use, with a steering wheel and side by side seating for at least one passenger. An LUV has some or all of the following features:

- a carry tray;
- rollover protection bars;
- a minimum of four wheels;
- low pressure tyres;
- automatic transmission, differential.

Mounted load refers to equipment or a load mounted on the rear carry tray of an LUV. Examples of equipment or loads may include – spray tanks, a toolbox, fertiliser bags, stock feed, dog box. Mounted load may contain contents that are static, non-static, or live.

***Ngā momo whiwhinga* | Grades available**

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

LUV operation

- functional controls, e.g. even throttle, even braking, gear use and selection, differential-lock, traction control, hill descent
- design differences that affect driving, e.g. differential-lock engagement, transmission systems, synchronised gearboxes, suspension systems
- complex conditions, e.g. uphill, downhill, traversing a slope, wet, loose surfaces, rough terrain, change of surfaces
- completing operational activities within workplace timeframes
- operating vehicle in safe manner e.g. safety for self, others and livestock, appropriate speed.

Mounted loads

- effect of mounted loads on LUV stability and dynamics
- effect of non-static loads and live loads on LUV stability and dynamics
- load security
- pre-drive checks, e.g. load security, load balance.

Rauemi | Resources

- [Health and Safety at Work Act \(2015\)](#)
- [Land Transport \(Driver Licensing\) Rule \(1999\)](#)
- [Land Transport \(Road User\) Rule \(2004\)](#)
- [Using your side-by-side safely](#) – booklet (WorkSafe New Zealand)
- Workplace Standard Operating Procedures
- Manufacturer's specifications.

Pārongo Whakaū Kouna | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa Standard Setting Body	Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai DASS classification	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Agriculture > Agricultural Vehicles and Machinery
Ko te tohutoro ki ngā Whakaritenga i te Whakamanatanga me te Whakaōritenga CMR	0052

Hātepe Process	Putanga Version	Rā whakaputa Review Date	Rā whakamutunga mō te aromatawai Last date for assessment
Rēhitatanga Registration	1	30 July 2026	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	This skill standard replaced unit standards 24558, 24560, and 24562.		
Rā arotake Planned review date	31 December 2031		

Please contact the Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board at info@foodandfibreisb.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.