

41375**Apply observation skills and threat identification in a security context**

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	4
Whāinga Purpose	This skill standard is for people who intend to work in the security industry. This skill standard recognises learners who can accurately observe and record information relevant to security operations, identify vulnerabilities and indicators of security risks, and determine appropriate responses to security situations in accordance with organisational procedures and legal requirements. This skill standard aligns with the New Zealand Certificate in Security (Foundation) (Level 3) [Ref: 3642].

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

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Observe and record information relevant to security operations.	a. Interpret visual information from security-related sources to identify information relevant to security operations.
	b. Record the identifying characteristics of objects observed in a security environment.
	c. Record the identifying characteristics of people observed in a security environment.
	d. Record the identifying characteristics of locations and places observed in a security environment.
	e. Record the identifying characteristics of vehicles observed in a security environment.
	f. Record details of a security-related incident using factual and accurate observations.
2. Identify vulnerabilities and indicators of security risks.	a. Identify situations and locations where security breaches are likely to occur.
	b. Identify environmental indicators that may signal a security threat.
	c. Identify behavioural and human factors that may indicate a security threat.

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
3. Assess security threats and determine appropriate responses.	a. Identify actual or potential threats to people and property in security situations.
	b. Assess the likelihood of identified threats occurring and justify the assessment.
	c. Explain the potential consequences of identified threats.
	d. Select and justify appropriate responses to identified threats in accordance with organisational procedures and relevant instructions.

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

Assessment specifications:

Assessment should occur in a simulated or authentic security environment and include evidence gathered from at least two security situations. Evidence must demonstrate compliance with organisational procedures, health and safety requirements, and relevant legislation applicable to the security industry.

Some candidates may need additional literacy support prior to undertaking assessment against this skill standard. Literacy in the security context includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, interpretation of graphic information, numeracy skills, non-verbal communications, and information technology skills. The following website is a source of literacy support:

www.literacy.org.nz/.

This skill standard is an introduction to the risk assessment process, which is further developed in higher level security qualifications. In this skill standard, application of this process is intended to be practical and at an introductory level, using everyday language rather than formal risk management terminology.

Where applicable in a security work context, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health applies.

Definitions

Body language – gestures, postures, and facial expressions by which people communicate non-verbally.

People – staff (including control room staff, team member, supervisor, management), emergency services, clients, the public.

Relevant instructions – oral, written or electronically transmitted instructions issued to govern the performance of security tasks, duties, and responsibilities. These may be in the form of policies, procedures, manuals, directives, or legal and compliance requirements. They may relate to a particular assignment, organisation, site or operation of equipment.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved.

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

- Observation techniques and situational awareness.
- Sources of visual information:
 - Maps and site plans, photographs, CCTV footage.
- Recording object descriptions:
 - Dimensions, colour, identifying marks, location.
- Recording people descriptions:
 - Facial features, hair characteristics, clothing and accessories, height and build, behaviour and mannerisms, speech characteristics.
- Recording place descriptions:
 - Building layout, entrances and exits, direction and distance references, construction features.
- Recording vehicle descriptions:
 - Make and model, colour, occupants, direction of travel, vehicle condition.
- Incident reporting:
 - Time and location, persons involved, actions observed, outcomes and responses.
- Vulnerable areas:
 - Entry and exit points, perimeter boundaries, cash-handling areas, storage areas, restricted-access zones, crowded environments, poorly lit locations.
- Environmental indicators:
 - Damaged fencing or barriers, forced entry indicators, unsecured doors and windows, unattended bags or parcels, suspicious objects, unauthorised vehicles, unusual smells, sounds, or debris, signs of tampering.
- Human indicators:
 - Suspicious behaviour, agitation or aggression, conflict situations, intoxication, emotional distress, threatening body language, unusual movement patterns.
- Threats to property:
 - Theft, vandalism, arson, fire, natural disasters, bomb threats, terrorism.
- Threats to people:
 - Assault, intoxication-related incidents, disorderly behaviour, disputes and conflicts, physical threats, breach of the Peace.
- Risk assessment concepts:
 - Unlikely, possible, likely, almost certain.
- Consequences:
 - Injury or harm, property damage, financial loss, business disruption, reputational damage.
- Response options:
 - Continue observation, report to supervisor, seek advice, request compliance, contact emergency services, isolate or cordon an area, evacuate personnel, follow site-specific procedures.

Rauemi | Resources

New Zealand legislation may include but is not limited to:

- Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002;
- Crimes Act 1961;
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand (Fire Safety, Evacuation Procedures, and Evacuation Schemes) Regulations 2018;
- Fire and Emergency Act 2017;
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
- Local Government Act 1974;
- New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990;
- Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act 2010;
- Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012;
- Summary Offences Act 1981;
- Trespass Act 1980;
- Privacy Act 2020;
- Evidence Act 2006;
- Smoke Free Environments Act 1990;
- Human Rights Act 1993;
- [Crowded places strategy/New Zealand Police](#).
- New Zealand Security Association (NZSA) Good Practice Guidelines available at <https://security.org.nz/security-industry-good-practice-guideline/>.

Pārongo Whakaū Kouna | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa Standard Setting Body	Services Industry Skills Board
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai DASS classification	Law and Security > Security > Security Staff Services
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 August 2026	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	N/A		
Rā arotake Planned review date	31 December 2031		

Please contact Services Industry Skills Board at qualifications@servicesisb.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.