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**CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY,  
AND INJURY PREVENTION**  
**Prevent hazards associated with  
working at heights on construction sites**

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<b>level:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>credit:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>planned review date:</b>	December 2003
<b>sub-field:</b>	Construction
<b>purpose:</b>	<p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify different types of height work for building and construction sites, and apply the appropriate controls for compliance with the Site Safety Plan, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and relevant legislation; and identify and apply procedures to monitor controls of working at height hazards.</p> <p>This unit standard is for people who wish to act as Safety Supervisors or become involved in health and safety and injury prevention over a wide range of building and construction activities and environments.</p>
<b>entry information:</b>	Open.
<b>accreditation option:</b>	Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.
<b>moderation option:</b>	A centrally established national moderation system has been set up by the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation.

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**special notes:**

- 1 *Compliance* is required with the hierarchy of controls outlined in the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE), i.e: elimination of significant hazards; isolation of significant hazards when elimination is not practicable; and minimisation of significant hazards where elimination and isolation are not practicable.
- 2 *All practical steps* means all steps to achieve the result that it is reasonably practicable to take in the circumstances, having due regard to: nature and severity of the harm; current state of knowledge about that harm; current state of knowledge about the means available to achieve the result and availability and cost of each of those means.
- 3 *Hazards* refer to those occurrences, processes, substances or situations as determined by the supervisor that are an actual or potential cause or source of harm associated with, but not limited to: process, activities, environment, equipment, materials, work organisation, site and facilities. Contributing factors may include noise, vibration, temperature, pressure and mechanical, ergonomic stressors, and chemical agents.
- 4 *Codes of Practice* refer to any issued code of practice approved by the Minister of Labour under Section 20 of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE), and any work carried out in accordance with that code.
- 5 *Standards* refer to any New Zealand or other Standards that provide technical guidance and specifications. Standards may also be specified in Regulations.

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- 6 *Guidelines* refer to any information on health and safety produced by the Occupation Safety and Health Service of the Department of Labour or Accident Compensation Corporation for the provision of health, safety and injury prevention in the building and construction industry. The guidelines are referenced to Regulations, situations or hazards, and may be based on relevant sections of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995, Standards contained in former legislation, or accepted good practice and supportive information.  
Specific publication - Provision of Facilities and General Safety in the Construction Industry, issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Service of the Department of Labour, April 1996.
- 7 *Legislation* relevant to this unit standard includes, but is not limited to: the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995, specifically, the definitions referring to Construction Work and Notifiable Work; Human Rights Act 1993; Privacy Act 1993; Local Government Act 1974; Resource Management Act 1991; Building Act 1991.
- 8 *Safety Supervisor* is defined as a person recognised as a health and safety practitioner pertaining to the building and construction industry or trades.
- 9 *Organisation* may refer to any business engaging, controlling, or employing people in a building and construction environment.

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- 10 *Site Safety Plan* is defined as a building and construction site specific document that demonstrates an organisation's means of compliance with the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and includes but is not limited to the following:
- assignment of responsibilities for on site implementation;
  - hazard identification methods;
  - accident investigation and report methods;
  - site emergency procedures;
  - site communication strategy;
  - strategy for the co-ordination of on site trade activities;
  - site audit procedures.
- 11 *Working at heights* is where any person may fall more than 3 metres.
- 12 This unit standard requires assessment in a practical work situation, on site. *On site* refers to a wide range of building and construction environments within which trade skills are required.

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**Elements and Performance Criteria**

**element 1**

Identify different types of height work for building and construction sites, and apply the appropriate controls for compliance with the Site Safety Plan, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) and relevant legislation.

Range: types of height work include but are not limited to- roofing, building maintenance, scaffolding, working off platforms, and some areas of demolition.

**performance criteria**

1.1 Hazards are identified in terms of each type of height work to identify the controls required for health and safety compliance.

Range: hazard factors may include but are not limited to - weather conditions, unguarded openings or building perimeters, ill-considered designs, non means of prevention from or arresting a fall (persons or materials), no or inadequate anchorage points, lack of guard-rails, lack of knowledge and experience, no proper means of access to work area, falling debris and/or objects, load bearing capacity of floors and site conditions for mobile equipment, premature or uncontrolled structural collapse, lack of pre-assembling on ground, inappropriate method used for height activity, unsuitable or defective equipment and plant, lack of safety and protective clothing.

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- 1.2 Controls required when carrying out height work are applied to ensure that all practical steps are taken to maintain health and safety compliance.

Range: controls are associated with the type of height work - over 3 metres, working platforms, working on roofs, building maintenance, using ladders, scaffolding or abseiling; areas to be considered included are - prior planning, which includes design, drawings and layout, certification and competency of workers, guarding, safety nets or fall arrest systems, continual structural and activity inspections, adequate supervision, consistent equipment condition checks, equipment and plant fit for purpose, emergency procedures which include sudden unexpected uncontrolled collapse of work area and/or malfunction of safety fall arrest system.

**element 2**

Identify and apply procedures to monitor controls of working at height hazards.

**performance criteria**

- 2.1 Identified hazards and related control measures are documented in accordance with the Site Safety Plan.
- 2.2 Height work is inspected for compliance against Site Safety Plan, relevant legislation and the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE).

Range: may include compliance with documents such as - the Fall Arrest Equipment Log, Records of Inspection of anchorage points, harnesses and life lines, Manufacturer's Installation procedures, Engineering Specifications and Training records. Inspections must occur before work starts and during the course of the work.

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- 2.3 Corrective action is taken to meet provisions of controls required for compliance with health and safety legislation and the Site Safety Plan.
- 2.4 Results of all inspections are recorded in accordance with the requirements of the Site Safety Plan.

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**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation [bcitocs@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bcitocs@xtra.co.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.

**Please Note**

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority or a delegated inter-institutional body before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for providers wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

This unit standard is covered by AMAP 0048 which can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.