

Title	Demonstrate knowledge of safety observer responsibilities in the workplace		
Level	3	Credits	8

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to identify: criteria where the Safety Observer is required to control, monitor and maintain safety for activity; hazardous environments and activities requiring safety observer control; the safety observer responsibilities; and emergency response measures.
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Classification	Occupational Health and Safety > Occupational Health and Safety Practice
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

Definitions

Legislative requirements include but are not limited to – Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) and relevant regulations, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, Resource Management Act 1991, local body regulations, Approved Codes of Practice, and any subsequent amendments and replacements.

Organisational requirements refer to instructions to staff on policy and procedures, which are documented in memo or manual format and are available in the workplace. These requirements may include but are not limited to – site specific requirements, company quality management requirements, Approved Codes of Practice and guidelines, and legislative requirements.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Identify criteria where the safety observer is required to control, monitor and maintain safety for activity.

Performance criteria

1.1 Types of work potentially requiring a safety observer are identified.

Range includes but is not limited to – hot work, confined space entry, excavation, work at heights.

- 1.2 Supporting documents stipulating safety observer requirements and system support are identified according to type and requirement.

Range includes but is not limited to – work permit procedures, specified duties, permit forms, gas monitoring forms, rescue plans, fire control plans, site evacuation.

Outcome 2

Identify hazardous environments and activities requiring safety observer control.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Work environments with conditions requiring observation are identified.

Range work environment conditions include but are not limited to – toxic gases, flammable liquids, vapours, dust, fire, explosion, oxygen depletion, other chemicals, toxic fumes, hazardous machinery.

- 2.2 Work activities, with potential for harmful incidents, requiring observation are identified.

Range work incidents include but are not limited to – physical falls, slips, noise, electrocution, impact, entrapment, engulfment, oxygen depletion, toxic formation, heat or cold stress, exhaustion, housekeeping standards, restricted egress/exit.

Outcome 3

Identify the safety observer responsibilities.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 General responsibilities and duties for safety observer are identified and are consistent with health and safety and organisational requirements.

Range includes but is not limited to – establishing, maintaining, and checking communication systems; emergency response rescue equipment; maintaining control of post whilst actively performing and coordinating emergency containment and/or rescue activities; monitoring work activity and/or environment and keeping records appropriate to permit requirements.

- 3.2 Specific responsibilities and duties for hot work safety observer are identified and are consistent with health and safety and organisational requirements.

Range includes but is not limited to – checking work environment prior to commencement and during hot work activity for flammable materials, gases, liquids, dust particles; watching for egress of ignition source and controlling containment; communicating with workforce and support teams; extinguishing small fires at source; rechecking area after completion of the job.

- 3.3 Specific responsibilities and duties for confined space entry safety observer are identified and are consistent with health and safety and organisational requirements.
- Range includes but is not limited to – monitoring work and adjacent areas environments; gas testing; maintaining records of tests and entry; ensuring rescue teams are available; ensuring communication systems are effective and remaining at post to form continual communication link and life support; raising alarm for abnormalities; coordinating rescue; evacuating entry team for emergency evacuation; accounting for all personnel.
- 3.4 Specific responsibilities and duties of the safety observer for excavation work are identified and are consistent with health and safety and organisational requirements.
- Range includes but is not limited to – coordinating communications; continual monitoring of work activity and environment; identifying underground, overhead, and surrounding obstacles; barricading and controlling entry to work area; raising alarm for abnormalities.
- 3.5 Specific responsibilities and duties of the safety observer for work at heights are identified and are consistent with health and safety and organisational requirements.
- Range includes but is not limited to – ensuring rescue plan, equipment and team available; monitoring work activity and/or environment; ensuring protective equipment is securely attached; maintaining communication links; raising alarm for abnormalities.

Outcome 4

Identify emergency response measures.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Emergency equipment for containment, control, and rescue is identified and is consistent with site emergency response plan.
- Range includes but is not limited to – fire protection and extinguishment, lighting, breathing apparatus, rescue harnesses, life lines, communication systems.
- 4.2 Rescue team, rescue plan, and coordinating control are identified and are consistent with the site emergency response plan.
- Range includes but is not limited to – team response, rescue plan relevant to activity and coordinator, agreed communication processes.

- 4.3 Communication systems relevant to environmental conditions and activity are identified for coordinating and controlling emergency events in accordance with the site emergency response plan and the emergency requirements.

Range communication systems include but are not limited to – voice, telephones, radios, signals; environmental conditions and activity include but are not limited to – proximity, visibility, noise levels, atmospheric and/or physical interference with radio and telephones.

Planned review date	31 December 2022
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	14 December 2000	N/A
Revision	2	16 May 2005	N/A
Review	3	25 May 2007	N/A
Rollover and Revision	4	22 May 2014	N/A
Rollover and Revision	5	22 August 2019	N/A
Rollover and Revision	6	25 March 2021	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0121
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact The Skills Organisation reviewcomments@skills.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.