

Title	Operate snowgroomers safely and effectively to meet grooming requirements for a snowsport area		
Level	4	Credits	28

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate and apply knowledge of safe work procedures and practices for snowgroomer operation at a snowsport area; and groom snow to a snowsport area's specifications and requirements.
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Classification	Snowsport > Snowsport Area Operations
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 All learning and assessment against this unit standard must be carried out in accordance with the following:
 - relevant legislation including the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, Accident Compensation Act 2001 and subsequent amendments and associated regulations;
 - alpine industry codes and good practice guidelines including *Snow Safety Code* and *Outdoor Safety Code*; (available at <http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz>);
 - organisational policies, procedures and requirements including Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and the use of personal protective equipment.
- 2 Definition
Snowsport area policy and procedures are instructions to staff that may be documented and available for reference at each alpine resort in the form of an operations manual and/or policy and procedures manual.
- 3 *Snowgrooming pattern* is the pattern of grooming at a specific snowsport area. Information about the *snowgrooming pattern* is generally learnt on-the-job from supervisors and experienced snowgroomer operators and is sometimes available to staff working for the snowgrooming department of a snowsport area in the form of a company manual.
- 4 Employment as a snowgroomer may require the graduate to hold a Class 2 Driver Licence with a T endorsement when driving a snowgroomer on a snowsport area.
- 5 Industry guidelines for recording snow and weather information are contained in the *New Zealand Guidelines and Recording Standards for Weather, Snowpack and Avalanche Observations*, (Wellington: New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, 2017).

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate and apply knowledge of safe work procedures and practices for snowgroomer operation at a snowsport area.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Follow safe working procedures and practices during snowgrooming operations, in regards to health and safety legislation, and snowsport area policy and procedures.
- 1.2 Maintain communication with relevant staff during snowgrooming operations.
- 1.3 Describe accident and emergency procedures during night operations.
- 1.4 Identify hazards and communicate these to management, patrol, or snow safety officer in accordance with snowsport area policy.
- 1.5 Describe required actions of snowgrooming personnel in the event of an emergency, accident or injury.
- 1.6 Identify hazards, hazardous areas and conditions within the snowsport area and explain operating procedures for these.
- 1.7 Describe and apply safe snowgroomer operating practices for transporting people and equipment.

Outcome 2

Groom snow to a snowsport area's specifications and requirements.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Operate the snowgroomer according to manufacturer's operating instructions and snowsport area policy.
- 2.2 Groom snow around features of the snowsport area according to snowsport area procedures and required standard.
- 2.3 Select snowgroomer routes and navigate these during adverse conditions, using knowledge of snowsport area and mountain terrain, taking into account machinery, equipment, restricted areas, environmental conditions, and operational requirements.
- 2.4 Apply snow conservation techniques according to snowsport area requirements.
- 2.5 Groom snow to a snowgrooming pattern using a range of implements, and to the standards and requirements of the snowsport area.
- 2.6 Competently use snowgroomer blade and tiller implements.

- 2.7 Apply effective snowgrooming techniques, taking into consideration snow movement, slope maintenance and efficiency of grooming practices in relation to terrain and snow conditions.
- 2.8 Apply spatial awareness to effective and safe grooming.
- 2.9 Follow procedures for night operations, adverse weather and snow conditions.
- 2.10 Create and maintain terrain for an event, race course, training area, park, or special requirements for part of the snowsport area.
- 2.11 Clear or dig out excess snow around buildings and lift stations to meet minimum clearance requirements, and without damaging buildings or equipment.
- 2.12 Maintain records of snowgrooming according to snowsport area requirements.

Planned review date	31 December 2025
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	20 April 2017	31 December 2022
Review	2	25 March 2021	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0099
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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 Skills Active Aotearoa info@skillsactive.or.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.