

Title	Record and communicate snowpack, weather and avalanche hazard information		
Level	5	Credits	20

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: explain the properties of the mountain snowpack and collect and record weather, snowpack data; and demonstrate knowledge of avalanche hazard assessment factors and communicate avalanche danger information.
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Classification	Snowsport > Avalanche
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 All learning and assessment against this standard must be carried out in accordance with the following:
 - relevant legislation including Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and Human Rights Act 1993;
 - relevant Activity Safety Guidelines published by WorkSafe New Zealand and subsequent updates;
 - alpine industry Codes including the *Snow Safety Code* and the *Outdoor Safety Code* (available at <http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz>);
 - a recognised and approved safety management system including organisational policies and procedures including Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), incident response management plans and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE);
 - current industry good practice;
 - relevant industry publications.
- 2 **Definition**
Current industry good practice means practice that adheres to accepted avalanche risk management practice which is detailed within current industry Codes, guidelines and publications.
- 3 Graduates working within avalanche terrain must operate within the terrain and supervision requirements defined by the scope statements set in the New Zealand Avalanche Terrain Operating Guidelines for Instructors/Guides, which references the Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES).
- 4 Further information regarding industry guidelines, key definitions and other relevant information can be found within the Avalanche programme guidance document. This document should be consulted when developing learning or assessment against this unit standard. It can be found at www.skillsactive.org.nz.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Explain the properties of the mountain snowpack.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Explain snow formation and metamorphism.
- 1.2 Describe forces and effects on the mountain snowpack.

Outcome 2

Collect and record weather, and snowpack data.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Observe and record study plot weather in accordance with current industry good practice.
- 2.2 Observe and record snowpack properties in accordance with current industry good practice.
- 2.3 Carry out and record snowpack tests in accordance with current industry good practice.
- 2.4 Use collected data plot snow profile graphs and explain significant snow profile properties in terms of instability, hazard analysis and forecasting in accordance with current industry good practice.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate knowledge of avalanche hazard assessment factors and communicate avalanche danger information.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Describe how the snowpack, terrain and weather factors are used to create an avalanche danger rating.
- 3.2 Evaluate the snowpack, terrain and weather information to create an avalanche danger rating.
- 3.3 Communicate avalanche danger information to others.

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	17 August 2017	31 December 2022
Review	2	25 March 2021	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0099

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 Limited info@skillsactive.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.