

Title	Demonstrate raft guiding skills and techniques for Grade 4 or 5 river trips		
Level	5	Credits	15

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate raft guiding techniques for Grade 4 or 5 river trips; demonstrate raft guiding skills for Grade 4 or 5 river trips.
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Classification	Outdoor Recreation > Rafting
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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, Human Rights Act 1993, Children's Act 2014, Health and Safety at Work (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2016;
 - industry Codes of Conduct, such as the Mountain Safety Council Land Safety Code available from [NZ Land Safety Code — NZMSC \(mountainsafety.org.nz\)](https://mountainsafety.org.nz) and 'Leave No Trace' principles available from <https://leavenotrace.org.nz>;
 - a recognised and approved Safety Management System (SMS) including organisational policies and procedures, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), incident response management plans and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
 - current industry good practice.
- 2 Classification of river grading systems as stated in the WorkSafe NZ June 2020, Good Practice Guideline, *White Water Rafting: Guidance for Commercial Rafting Operators*, available from <https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/adventure-activities/white-water-rafting> Section 3.0. Managing risk: the river environment.

Grade 4 rapids

Characteristics

- have high, powerful, irregular waves, broken water, often boiling eddies, strong stoppers, ledges, drops, and dangerous exposed rocks,
- a passage that is often difficult to recognise, and
- require precise and sequential manoeuvring to negotiate the rapids.

Grade 5 rapids**Characteristics**

- have very confused and broken water, large drops, violent and fast currents, abrupt turns, difficult powerful stoppers, and fast boiling eddies,
- numerous obstacles in the main current,
- require complex, precise, powerful and sequential manoeuvring to negotiate the rapids, and
- pose a definite risk to personal safety.

3 Definition

Current industry good practice means the range of actions currently accepted within the adventure and outdoor sector (which includes the raft and riverboard industries) to manage the risk of harm to staff, participants, and visitors.

4 Evidence towards performance criteria 1.4 - 1.8 can be collected under simulated conditions.

Outcomes and performance criteria**Outcome 1**

Demonstrate raft guiding techniques for Grade 4 or 5 river trips.

Performance criteria**1.1 Demonstrate manoeuvring of raft for Grade 4 or 5 rapids using river features to assist.**

Range ferry glide technique (forwards and backwards), catching eddies, obstacle avoidance.

1.2 Scout rapids to identify hazards and select appropriate line choice.**1.3 Use raft lines through rapids based on assessment of participant's ability, the hazards and river conditions.****1.4 Manage the portage of a raft and participants for a Grade 4 or 5 river.****1.5 Demonstrate use of crew in wrap avoidance, dislodging stuck rafts and manoeuvring in tight situations.****1.6 Maintain position in raft convoy throughout the trip using line of sight.**

Range rolling cover, truck and trailer, spacing.

1.7 Demonstrate control of raft in emergency situations for Grade 4 or 5 rivers.

Range raft stopping, placement of craft to provide assistance in a rescue situation.

1.8 Demonstrate raft flip recovery for Grade 4 or 5 rivers.

Range includes but is not limited to – midstream assist.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate raft guiding skills for Grade 4 or 5 river trips.

Performance criteria

2.1 Position participants in the raft according to their ability, expectations and needs for the selected trip.

2.2 Give safety instructions to participants that are relevant to the raft and trip.

Range foot entrapment, defensive float position, aggressive swim position, outside line, pull into raft, throw bag rescue, T-grip rescue, specific river hazards, river signals, raft flip potential.

2.3 Use effective communication to train participants in rafting skills for Grade 4 or 5 rivers.

Range rafting skills includes – holding paddle, sitting position, paddle strokes, paddle commands, holding on, weight shifts; effective communication includes – clear instructions and demonstrations, checking for understanding, checking competence and providing feedback.

2.4 Communicate with other guides using appropriate river signals.

Range demonstration of situational awareness when giving the river signals.

2.5 Demonstrate river etiquette with other users and provide information to the participants.

Range other users may include but are not limited to – anglers, landowners, kayakers, powered craft, swimmers, rafters, whitewater boarders.

Replacement information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 26515.
Planned review date	31 December 2029

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	24 September 2020	31 December 2026
Review	2	27 March 2025	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 Toi Mai Workforce Development Council qualifications@toimai.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.