

Title	Demonstrate knowledge of and apply introductory raft guiding skills		
Level	4	Credits	10

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of the New Zealand whitewater rafting industry and professional raft guiding practice; demonstrate knowledge of rafting equipment and its use in a rafting context; demonstrate knowledge of river hydrology, hazards and river features for introductory raft guiding; prepare to guide a raft trip on a Grade 2 river; demonstrate raft guiding techniques for Grade 2 river trips; guide participants on a Grade 2 raft trip.
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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>; Department of Conservation Water Care Code available from <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/boating/water-responsibility/>;
 - 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 2 rapids**Characteristics**

- have regular medium-sized waves of less than a metre,
- low ledges or drops, easy eddies, and gradual bends, and
- a passage that is easy to recognise, and generally unobstructed, although there may be rocks in the main current, overhanging branches or log jams.

3 Definitions

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.

River hydrology includes the study of the how river water moves in relation to the land, river volume and the flow rate. This can also be referred to as river dynamics.

4 Evidence towards performance criteria 5.4 and 5.5 can be collected under simulated conditions.

Outcomes and performance criteria**Outcome 1**

Demonstrate knowledge of the New Zealand whitewater rafting industry and professional raft guiding practice.

Performance criteria**1.1 Describe the roles of organisations involved in whitewater rafting in New Zealand in terms of rules and safety guidelines.**

Range qualification provider, national member organisation, WorkSafe, auditing bodies.

1.2 Demonstrate respect for the environment through the personal application of environmentally sustainable practices.

Range Leave No Trace, Water Care Code.

1.3 Demonstrate etiquette and actions supporting positive interaction with other river users.

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

Outcome 2

Demonstrate knowledge of rafting equipment and its use in a rafting context.

Performance criteria

2.1 Describe raft construction and design, including their limitations.

Range materials, chambers, thwart, baffles, floor, D-rings, grab lines.

2.2 Identify standard equipment required for a raft trip and describe its use.

Range equipment includes – repair kit, first aid kit, pump, paddles, rescue kit, throw-bag, sweep kit.

2.3 Demonstrate raft care and handling techniques.

Range inflation, deflation, loading, transportation, storage.

2.4 Describe emergency raft repairs.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate knowledge of river hydrology, hazards and river features for introductory raft guiding.

Performance criteria

3.1 Describe the nature of commonly rafted sections of rivers in New Zealand.

Range nature includes – braided, single channel, gorged, pool drop, continuous.

3.2 Describe river hydrology.

Range eddies, boils, eddy lines, waves, reversals, seams, cushions (buffer, pillow), helical and laminar flow, volume.

3.3 Identify river hazards and describe the danger they present to the river user.

Range strainers, undercuts, reversals, sieves, eddy lines or seams, midstream boulders, flooded rivers.

3.4 Describe the river grading system used for whitewater rafting in New Zealand.

Range nature of water at each grade, degree of danger and/or difficulty at each grade.

Outcome 4

Prepare to guide a raft trip on a Grade 2 river.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Describe safety considerations for a selected raft trip on a Grade 2 river.
- Range river section information, emergency exits and response, communication equipment, intentions and estimated times.
- 4.2 Interpret weather and river flow information for a selected raft trip and adjust trip plans as required.
- Range includes but is not limited to – effect on catchment areas, current river conditions, local climate.
- 4.3 Prepare equipment required for the selected raft trip on a Grade 2 river, taking into account the location, season, weather, and participant needs.

Outcome 5

Demonstrate raft guiding techniques for Grade 2 river trips.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Demonstrate control of raft through Grade 2 rapids using paddle stroke combinations and guiding commands.
- Range ferry glide technique (forward and back), breaking into and out of eddies, manoeuvring of raft with no crew assistance, manoeuvre raft with crew commands only (no guide paddle).
- 5.2 Describe spacing between boats on multi-boat trips on Grade 2 rivers.
- Range visual contact, truck and trailer, rolling cover.
- 5.3 Demonstrate use of crew in wrap avoidance, dislodging stuck rafts and manoeuvring in tight situations on a Grade 2 river.
- 5.4 Demonstrate control of raft in emergency situations on a Grade 2 river.
- Range raft stopping, placement of craft to provide assistance in a rescue situation.
- 5.5 Demonstrate flip recovery on a Grade 2 river.

Outcome 6

Guide participants on a Grade 2 raft trip.

Performance criteria

- 6.1 Give instructions to participants that are relevant to the raft and trip.
- Range includes but is not limited to – introductions, medical conditions, paddle strokes and commands, hold on, falling out, defensive float position, aggressive swim position, throw-bag rescue, self-rescue, flips, entrapment.
- 6.2 Demonstrate awareness of the physical, emotional and cultural needs of participants.
- 6.3 Assess participants and position them in the raft according to their ability, expectations and needs.
- 6.4 Demonstrate clear communication with participants to enable the safe handling of the raft on land and water.

Replacement information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 21282.
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Planned review date	31 December 2029
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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
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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 Toi Mai Workforce Development Council qualifications@toimai.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.