

Title	Respond to and signal distress		
Level	3	Credits	2

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe the legal obligations on receiving a maritime distress signal, and respond to a maritime distress signal; and select and use signalling equipment in a maritime distress scenario.
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Classification	Maritime > Sea Survival and Sea Safety
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Legislative requirements include but are not limited to – International Code of Signals; Maritime Transport Act 1994, and Maritime Rule 23, Part 42A (section 22 to 24) and their subsequent amendments.
- 2 Knowledge underpinning the attainment of this unit standard includes type and function of distress signalling equipment, and search and rescue procedures.
- 3 Competencies in this unit standard will be demonstrated in simulated distress situations.
- 4 Any simulated distress signals must comply with national and local legislative restrictions.
- 5 Reference: *International Maritime Authority Merchant Ship Search and Rescue Manual* (1993) IMO London (MERSAR).

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the legal obligations on receiving a maritime distress signal, and respond to a maritime distress signal.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The signal is immediately recognised as a distress signal, consistent with the International Code of Signals.
- 1.2 The description of the legal obligations is consistent with the Maritime Transport Act.

- 1.3 The response to the distress signal complies with the International Code of Signals.
- 1.4 Recording of distress signalling activity is completed in accordance with company standing orders and maritime rules and regulations.

Outcome 2

Select and use signalling equipment in a maritime distress scenario.

Range signalling equipment includes but is not limited to – lights, flags, emergency position indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs), hand signals, radio transmissions, flares (including smoke), sound signals, flames, search and rescue radar transponders (SARTS).

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Signalling equipment selected is capable of fulfilling its intended purpose within the specified conditions.
 - Range conditions include – visibility, sea, weather, proximity to the shore or other vessels.
- 2.2 Operation of signalling equipment is in accordance with manufacturer’s directions and legislative requirements.
- 2.3 The procedures to be followed when a distress signal is accidentally activated are described, consistent with MERSAR.

This unit standard is expiring. Assessment against the standard must take place by the last date for assessment set out below.

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	21 May 1995	31 December 2021
Review	2	30 January 1997	31 December 2021
Review	3	30 July 2002	31 December 2021
Review	4	24 September 2020	31 December 2021

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0054
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.