

Assist with avalanche control work using handcharges

Level 4

Credits 2

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to operate in a safe manner as a supervised team member while storing and handling handcharges for use in avalanche control work, and operate as a supervised team member during avalanche control work using handcharges.

Subfield Snowsport

Domain Avalanche

Status Registered

Status date 28 March 2001

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Planned review date 31 December 2008

Entry information Prerequisites: Unit 6400, *Manage first aid in emergency situations*; Unit 18135, *Assist on an avalanche response*; and Unit 18136, *Demonstrate own party avalanche rescue*; or demonstrate equivalent skills and knowledge.

Accreditation Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.

Standard setting body (SSB) Sport, Fitness and Recreation Industry Training Organisation Limited

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0050

This AMAP can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Special notes

- 1 People undertaking this unit standard require mountain travelling skills (foot, board or ski), and need to be able to meet the clothing and equipment requirements for the mountains.

- 2 All activities must comply with the policies and requirements of the enterprises involved and any relevant legislative and/or regulatory requirements which include but are not limited to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and their associated regulations.
- 3 The hazardous substances provisions of the HSNO Act 1996 was introduced progressively from July 2001. This included the repeal of the Dangerous Goods Act 1974, Explosives Act 1957, Explosives Regulations 1959, and aspects of the Transport Act 1962. The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) will be responsible for assessing and approving hazardous substances and where appropriate, setting controls on the way the substance is used. Any questions relating to the transitional provisions for hazardous substances should be directed to ERMA New Zealand, <http://ermanz.govt.nz>, telephone 04 916 2426 or Sfrito, <http://www.sfrito.org.nz>, telephone 04 385 9047.
- 4 It is a requirement of the snowsport industry that people working towards this unit standard must work under the direct supervision of more experienced snow industry personnel.
- 5 It is recommended that people undertaking this unit standard also complete Unit 18128, *Contribute to the avalanche stability assessment for a snow safety programme*.
- 6 Industry guidelines for recording snow and weather information, and hazard ratings are contained in the *New Zealand Guidelines and Recording Standards for Weather, Snowpack and Avalanche Observations*, (Wellington: New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, 2003).
- 7 There are minimum assessor requirements for assessment against this unit standard. The details of these requirements are available on the Sfrito website <http://www.sfrito.org.nz>.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Operate in a safe manner as a supervised team member while storing and handling handcharges for use in avalanche control work.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Safety procedures are described for the storage, transportation, and handling of explosives.

Range operational safety procedures, HSNO Act 1996 and regulations.
- 1.2 Explosives and their components are transported to and from the control site(s) according to HSNO regulations and operational requirements.

- 1.3 Safe practices are described for reducing exposure to avalanche hazard and for minimising the danger from explosives during control work.
- Range snow blasting site and potential run out area clear of public and staff, selection of travel route to control site, belaying during placement of charges for cornices, positioning of personnel during blasting work, communication procedure used for dispatching of charge(s), visual and verbal communication with other workers, ear protection during blasting.
- 1.4 Personal safety is maintained while travelling to and from the control site(s), and while control work is underway.
- Range wearing of avalanche transceiver, carrying of portable and non-sparking shovel, carrying of probes and first aid equipment, wearing of ear protection during blasting work, use of two-way radio, following verbal and/or visual instructions of team leader.

Element 2

Operate as a supervised team member during avalanche control work using handcharges.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Explosive charges are assembled under supervision following recommended instructions and procedures.
- Range safety fuse, plain detonators, detonating cords, cast primers, emulsion explosives, ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate – Fuel Oil mixture).
- 2.2 Safety procedures are followed during avalanche control work.
- Range safety of self, safety of other workers, safety of visitors and/or clients in area.
- 2.3 Charges are dispatched as directed by qualified personnel.
- Range underhand throw, charges lowered, operator belayed.
- 2.4 Avalanche control work is recorded to industry standards and operational requirements.
- Range time, date, location, placement of charge, type and size of handcharge, avalanche occurrence and/or non-occurrence, avalanche characteristics, resulting damage.

2.5 Misfires and suspected misfires are dealt with according to HSNO regulations and workplace operational procedures.

Range report to supervisor, record information, observe waiting period, assist with marking location or later disposal.

Please note

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Sport, Fitness and Recreation Industry Training Organisation Limited info@sfrito.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.