
SNOWSPORT AREA OPERATIONS
**Manage a snowgrooming operation at a
snowsport area**

level:	5
credit:	20
planned review date:	June 2009
sub-field:	Snowsport
purpose:	People credited with this unit are able to: demonstrate knowledge of the snowsport area's product; lead a snowgrooming shift; and operate a snowgroomer in adverse conditions.
entry information:	Prerequisite: Unit 21750, <i>Perform advanced grooming at a snowsport area</i> , or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.
accreditation option:	Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.
moderation option:	A centrally established and directed national moderation system has been set up by Sport, Fitness and Recreation Industry Training Organisation.
special notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 It is a legal requirement of the Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999 to hold a Class 2 Driver Licence with a T endorsement when driving a snowgroomer on a snowsport area.2 All activities must comply with the policies, procedures, and requirements of the enterprises involved and any relevant environmental, legislative and/or regulatory requirements which include but are not limited to the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE), Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act 2001, and their subsequent amendments and associated regulations.3 <i>Snowsport area's product</i> is defined in terms of the snow surface and conditions, its ability to be skied or ridden by a range of skier or boarder abilities, the expectations of customers, and the services provided by the snowsport area.

SNOWSPORT AREA OPERATIONS
Manage a snowgrooming operation at a snowsport area

- 4 *Company or snowsport area policy and procedures are instructions to staff that may be documented and available for reference at each snowsport area in the form of an operations manual.*
- 5 *Competence in this unit standard may be demonstrated in conjunction with Unit 20161, *Analyse weather information and predict weather conditions for the outdoors.**

Elements and Performance Criteria

element 1

Demonstrate knowledge of the snowsport area's product.

performance criteria

- 1.1 An overview of snowpack metamorphism and snow mechanics is outlined, with reference to the effects of temperature, pressure, environmental conditions, and grooming practices on the snowpack, over time.

Range: machine made snow, natural snow.
- 1.2 Hazards are identified and communicated to management, patrol, or snow safety officer in accordance with company or snowsport area policy.

Range: hazards must include a minimum of three of the following – potential avalanche start zones and paths, waterlogged snow, icy snow, steep slopes, machinery, restricted areas.
- 1.3 Key areas for the grooming of snow are identified, and match the requirements of the company or snowsport area.

Range: key areas may include but are not limited to – high traffic areas, beginner slopes, loading and unloading stations.
- 1.4 Outcomes for a snowgrooming crew are described in terms of company or snowsport area requirements, taking into account constraints which may affect the achievement of these outcomes.

SNOWSPORT AREA OPERATIONS
Manage a snowgrooming operation at a snowsport area

Range: constraints may include but are not limited to – personnel, machines, fuel available, time, budget, excess snow, insufficient snow.

element 2

Lead a snowgrooming shift.

Range: night and/or day.

performance criteria

- 2.1 Operational information, snowsport area policies and procedures, and manufacturers operating instructions are communicated to snowgrooming personnel.
- 2.2 Crew is supervised to ensure adherence to safe operating procedures in and around hazardous areas and/or conditions, according to company or snowsport area standards and relevant legislation and regulations.
- Range: hazards may include but are not limited to – potential avalanche start zones and paths, other slope users, waterlogged snow, icy snow, soft snow, steep slopes, snowmaking machinery, restricted areas, deep snow, other snowsport area machinery, snowmobiles.
- 2.3 Crew is supervised to ensure adherence to industry standards and company policies and procedures in snowgroomer operation, and actions are taken to maintain safety in the workplace for staff and guests.
- Range: minimum snow clearances around lift lines, lift stations, and buildings; safe snowgroomer operating practices.
- 2.4 Emergency and accident reporting procedures are communicated to snowgrooming crew according to company or snowsport area policy.
- 2.5 Supervision of crew ensures that grooming is completed to the standards required by the snowgrooming department and the company or snowsport area.
- 2.6 Crew is supervised to maximise efficiency in use of time, personnel, machines, and fuel, and to maximise skiing product outcomes in terms of available snow.

SNOWSPORT AREA OPERATIONS
Manage a snowgrooming operation at a snowsport area

2.7 During snowgrooming operations communications are maintained with relevant staff, using two-way radio or cell phone, and practice complies with company procedures.

Range: may include but is not limited to – management, personnel, other workers.

2.8 The work of snowgrooming personnel is reviewed, and training is provided so that snow production is optimised.

2.9 Snowgrooming personnel are coordinated for shifts, duties, and training.

Range: may include – rosters.

element 3

Operate a snowgroomer in adverse conditions.

Range: adverse conditions may include but are not limited to – storm conditions, poor visibility, avalanche hazard, de-icing work.

performance criteria

3.1 The driving performance of a snowgroomer is worked to advantage in a range of snow conditions.

Range: snow conditions may include – spring snow, powder, hard-packed powder, icy snow, water-logged snow, machine made snow, avalanche debris, insufficient snow.

3.2 Description covers safe snowgroomer operating practices, when transporting people and equipment, according to company or snowsport area policy and procedures.

3.3 Priorities for grooming during storm cycles are identified and meet the company or snowsport area requirements.

Range: priorities may include – snowfarming, repacking, clearing access roads and buildings, snow clearing, lifts, track packing, re-grooming.

SNOWSPORT AREA OPERATIONS

Manage a snowgrooming operation at a snowsport area

- 3.4 Snowgroomer routes are selected and navigated during adverse conditions, using knowledge of snowsport area and mountain terrain, and taking into account machinery, equipment, restricted areas, environmental conditions, and operational requirements.
- Range: snowsport area machinery and equipment may include – snowmaking hydrants, guns, and hoses; chairlifts, surface ropeways, lift stations; other snowgroomers, snowmobiles, signs and fences;
restricted areas – as required by landowners or managers – this may include but is not limited to bogs, sewage ponds, water reservoirs;
environmental conditions may include – snowpack, surface snow conditions, terrain, slope, visibility, avalanche hazard, night or daytime;
operational requirements may include – warning signals used, speed controlled, designated routes used, passenger restrictions.
- 3.5 Climbing routes for snowgroomers are kept open during snowfalls, in consultation with the snow safety officer or patrol supervisor.

Comments on this unit standard

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

Please Note

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority or a delegated inter-institutional body before they can register 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.

SNOWSPORT AREA OPERATIONS
**Manage a snowgrooming operation at a
snowsport area**

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 providers wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

This unit standard is covered by AMAP 0050 which can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/site/framework/search.html>.