

Title	Operate a skidder in a forestry situation		
Level	4	Credits	5

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of skidders and their capabilities and limitations; conduct pre-start and maintenance checks prior to operating a skidder; start up a skidder; demonstrate knowledge of hazards and risks specific to operating skidders and operate a skidder; and shut down a skidder.
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Classification	Forestry > Machine Operations - Forestry
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Assessment information
This unit standard must be assessed on-job and the operator must meet the production requirements of the operation.
- 2 Definitions
Accepted industry practice refers to approved codes of practice and standardised procedures accepted by the wider forestry industry as examples of best practice.
PPE refers to personal protective equipment and may include but is not limited to high-visibility, protective clothing, gloves, face and eye protection, safety helmet, footwear, hearing protection, and safety devices.
Worksite procedures refer to documented procedures used by the organisation carrying out the work and applicable to the tasks being carried out. They may include but are not limited to – standard operating procedures, site safety procedures, equipment operating procedures, quality assurance procedures, housekeeping standards, procedures to comply with legislative and local body requirements.
- 3 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes the: Health and Safety at Work (HSW) Act 2015, Resource Management Act 1991; the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Amendment Regulations 2018; and the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, and any subsequent amendments.
- 4 References
New Zealand Forest Owners Association, *Forest Practice Guides* (2019), and any subsequent amendments, available from <http://www.nzfoa.org.nz>.
Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) for Safety and Health in Forestry Operations, December 2012, available from <http://www.worksafe.govt.nz>.

- 5 Skidders covered by this unit standard are rubber tyred skidders equipped with a winch and rubber tyred skidders equipped with a grapple.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of skidders and their capabilities and limitations.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Factors that influence the locations and conditions where skidders can be operated are explained in accordance with accepted industry practice and manufacturer's recommendations.
- 1.2 The capabilities and limitations of skidders are described in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and worksite procedures.
- Range ground conditions, slope, load size.
- 1.3 The operation of skidders is explained in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- Range protective structures, seat belts, night work, guarding, operating on slopes, emergency exits.

Outcome 2

Conduct pre-start and maintenance checks prior to operating a skidder.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 PPE is worn in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 2.2 Pre-start checks are performed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and worksite procedures.
- Range may include but is not limited to – fluid levels, operator protection structures, machine guarding, safety features, blade and log attachment equipment, wheels and tyres, hydraulic hose condition, fire suppression, equipment in operator cab, operator visibility, debris in engine compartment; evidence of ten is required.
- 2.3 Access and egress methods are demonstrated in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- Range facing machine, three point contact, step and grab rail condition.
- 2.4 Means of communication with other workers is checked for suitability in accordance with worksite procedures.

- 2.5 Daily maintenance of the skidder is performed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and worksite procedures.

Outcome 3

Start up a skidder.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Machine warning indicators are explained, and rectifying actions described, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Range may include – high oil or water temperature, low oil levels, low engine oil pressure, diff lock engagement, air pressure, oil filter replacement, park brake status.

- 3.2 The machine is started and warmed up in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

- 3.3 Warning indicators are checked, and corrective action is taken when necessary in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.

Outcome 4

Demonstrate knowledge of hazards and risks specific to operating skidders and operate a skidder.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 The hazards and associated risks specific to operating skidders are described and ways to control these explained in accordance with accepted industry practice.

Range slopes, track edges, ground conditions, soil moisture, obstacles on the ground, debris, speed, machine instability, machine size, mechanical failure, proximity of other workers, restricted visibility.

- 4.2 The reason for on-going hazard and risk identification is explained in accordance with accepted industry practice.

- 4.3 Factors that may change hazards or introduce new hazards or risks are described in accordance with accepted industry practice.

Range weather, terrain.

- 4.4 The machine is operated within its limitations and operator capabilities in accordance with accepted industry practice.

Range travel speeds, machine manoeuvring, turning on slopes, operating blade and log attachment equipment, positioning machine.

- 4.5 Loads are accumulated with controlled use of winch or grapple.
- 4.6 Unfavourable ground conditions are overcome by repositioning load to change machine weight distribution.
- 4.7 Communication is maintained with workers using recognised forest industry signals in accordance with accepted industry practice.

Outcome5

Shut down a skidder.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 The skidder is parked in accordance with worksite procedures and the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Range level ground, clear of debris, attachments lowered to the ground.
- 5.2 The skidder is shut down in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
- 5.3 Post-operational checks on the skidder are carried out in accordance with worksite procedures and manufacturer's recommendations.
- Range may include but is not limited to – wear on components, damage to components, hydraulic leaks, structural damage, tyre condition, wire ropes, hydraulic fluid level; evidence of six is required.

Planned review date	31 December 2028
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	8 November 1996	31 December 2012
Revision	2	19 June 1998	31 December 2012
Review	3	5 December 2000	31 December 2012
Review	4	22 May 2008	31 December 2013
Revision	5	15 September 2011	31 December 2016
Review	6	19 March 2015	N/A
Review	7	25 June 2020	N/A
Rollover	8	26 April 2024	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0173
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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 Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council qualifications@mukatangata.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.