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Update from Recreation Aotearoa and TIA

Kia ora koutou,

The new safety audit standard is now law and will come into effect in April next year. This is the outcome of the Whakaari/White Island tragedy. Strong submissions from the outdoor sector, Recreation Aotearoa and TIA helped to keep the changes to the audit standard relatively minor and we now have 8 months to figure out how to implement the new regulations.

Trying to implement change in your organisation when already snowed under by other compliance may be really difficult. Please keep in mind, you do not have to do it alone. One of the roles of both TIA and Recreation Aotearoa is to facilitate the sharing of the knowledge, wisdom and experience that exists throughout our sector and to use this to help those who need it. The methods we have to do this are:

- Newsletters
- Regional Hui
- Direct communication through email and phone

Below are links to some guidance documents from Worksafe. If there are any questions you want answered or information you feel needs to be shared with the everyone, please let me know.

The regional outdoors hui have been a very good place to meet others in the sector and make connections. Themes for the last two hui have been disability and inclusion and

fatality prevention mindset. The next hui we are running is in Wellington, Friday, 1 December.

I am always available on the phone or email. If you have any issues, please get in contact.

Ngā mihi,

Kieran Mckay

Kia ora koutou,

TIA and Recreation Aotearoa have been working with Worksafe over the last few weeks to get more clarification on the changes to the Adventure Activities amendment regulations. You can find more guidance in the links below.

We are also aware that recently the number of visits to Adventure Activity providers has been increased by the inspectorate. Therefore, we have included a link to more details. We've also asked Worksafe for more specific information which will be provided in the next newsletter.

Please get in touch if you have any other concerns.

Ngā mihi,

Megan Williams

Megan.williams@tia.org.nz

Guidance from Worksafe around interventions and what to notify

Worksafe offers free resources on what kinds of incidents need to be reported and how they assist with intervention in the workplace to ensure that health and safety is prioritised for everyone. Find these resources below:

- [How we intervene](#)
 - [When we intervene](#)
 - [What events need to be notified](#)
-

Skills Active Aotearoa Announces Divestment of Qualworx Ltd

The Skills Active Aotearoa board conducted a review of the operations of the entire group after the recent establishment of the private training entity Te Mahi Ako.

Establishing this PTE was a major undertaking and followed the unanimous decision of our shareholders to directly own a training entity in the new vocational education landscape after the Reform of Vocational Education (ROVE).

The review highlighted the operational excellence of Qualworx, its excellent relationship with the New Zealand Adventure Activity sector, the joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) and WorkSafe New Zealand.

However, it was decided the continued investment into the core activities of safety auditing and certification were no longer a strategic fit with the long term aims of the newly formed group.

Skills Active is very happy to announce that its wholly owned subsidiary, Qualworx Limited, has been purchased by Qualworx Safety and Accreditation Manager, Mr Dave Watkinson, effective from today.

What does this mean for shareholders and Skills Active?

Our top priority has always been on maintaining uninterrupted service for our valued clients, and this exciting transition aligns with that standard. The decision encompassed more than just securing Qualworx's future but also upholding the elevated standards and values we stand for.

Dave Watkinson's understanding of the Qualworx landscape and deep-seated passion for the sector makes him an ideal leader to guide Qualworx into an exciting future.

In the coming months, Skills Active Aotearoa will continue to support ongoing operations of Qualworx through a formal service arrangement. Our main goal is to ensure that Qualworx preserves the ability to serve operators and sectors effectively, sustaining the high standards that have always been our hallmark.

The new Qualworx ownership relationship

Qualworx, under its new ownership will work closely within the adventure activity sector. Business will continue as usual and without disruption, ensuring operators can expect the same level of professionalism and quality. Skills Active and Te Mahi Ako will continue with business as usual.

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support.

Sam Napia
Board Chairman
Skills Active Aotearoa Ltd

Messages from the Auditors



Qualworx

It's that time again. We are experiencing the general spike in the recertification audit world with some operators on their 4th cycle. It appears that in general the world is returning to the new normal and that organisations are resurfacing and reestablishing after some challenging times. The challenge now for many is paying for groceries and audits.

We are way too far in now to the recertification year to give any new advice – It still stands that if you can lock in and set dates that trigger any travel and clustering with other operators, this keeps the requirement as nimble as it can be. If you leave it late then we all feel the squeeze and the angst of potentially not being able to trade the registerable activity until the process is completed.

The Worksafe website is providing good resource and detail on the status and progress of updated regulations and the Scheme, in essence if you are doing recertification in 2023 then you will be on the original scheme and regulations.

We know that the changes and transitions into the new requirements will be triggered after April 2024 ([further detail on the Worksafe website](#)) and there will be a requirement for the audit companies to capture this at surveillance. Or wherever your audit cycle is at post April 2024.

There are changes as you will know and see, and no doubt have questions. Get involved with the industry peak bodies to ensure the correct messaging and information is made available and if needed, any future Hui are considered via the respective bodies.

As Spring has sprung Qualworx, along with the other audit body will continue to badger customers to get cracking, get audit ready, set times and deadlines, arrange and lock in any visit dates as soon as you can. We need to get the certifications up the Worksafe in good time to allow for the registration process to take its course.

Dave Watkinson

Qualworx Ltd



AdventureMark

The long-awaited 2023 version of the Safety Audit Standard has now been published. Please note that it only comes into effect on 1 April 2024 so all audits up until that point are still against the existing 2017 version. Both versions can be found [here](#).

The new version is called the Safety Management System Requirements for Adventure Activity Operators. This is great as it focuses on the primary intended reader: the operators that the requirements are written for. As auditors, our role is simply to check that you are adhering to this Standard.

The good news is that, for operators who already show a high level of conformity, it doesn't look like you'll need to make much change, most of the amendments in the new Standard seem to clarify requirements, rather than introduce new ones.

We've had discussions with lots of operators concerned about increased compliance requirements and it's heartening to see that the modifications in the new version don't have many onerous new "musts".

There is a new section on managing natural hazards. Based on the nature of most adventure activities, we can be confident that operators have been assessing and managing natural hazards for a long time already. Hopefully, this new requirement helps to focus operators' risk assessments and management plans to ensure that any natural hazards aren't overlooked or underestimated.

Please note that any audits between now and 31 March 2024 need to be conducted against the existing Safety Audit Standard for Adventure Activities 2017. This means there is plenty of time for operators to review this new 2023 Standard and bring their SMS up to speed if any changes are necessary.

Ngā mihi,

Mike Pennefather

Update from Worksafe

From the Adventure Activities Technical Programmes and Support Team:

The changes in the updated Standard were consulted on with the adventure tourism and outdoor commercial sectors with feedback received from industry bodies, safety auditors, operators, and interested individuals.

For information on the proposed changes we consulted on and our summary of submissions go to [Review of Safety Audit Standard for Adventure Activities | WorkSafe](#).

The updates in version 2.0 of the Standard include changes to introduce a specific requirement for operators to assess and manage risks associated with natural hazards, and requirements for what information about risks must be provided to participants and how this communication should occur.

The updates also include changes to ensure that the updated version of the Standard is consistent with the upcoming changes to the Regulations as will be amended by the *Health and Safety at Work (Adventure Activities) Amendment Regulations 2023*.

Until 31 March 2024, any audits carried out by safety auditors will continue to be assessed against the current version of the Standard (version 1.1).

From 1 April 2024, those audits will be assessed against the updated version of the Standard (version 2.0).

The following table outlines the changes we've made in the updated version of the Standard (version 2.0).

Item changed	Description of change
Document title	The title of this Standard was changed to 'Safety management system requirements for adventure activity operators' to clarify that the primary audience for this document is both adventure activity operators and safety auditors. There were some concerns the previous title 'Safety Audit Standard for Adventure Activities' was misleading with some considering that the Standard was for safety auditor reference only.
'Ancillary services' definition	Minor changes were made to this definition to align with the definition used in the NZ Adventure Activities Certification Scheme.
'Good practice' definition	Minor changes were made to this definition to align with the definition used in the NZ Adventure Activities Certification Scheme.
'Hazard' definition	Minor changes were made to this definition to align with the definition used in the NZ Adventure Activities Certification Scheme.

‘Incident’ definition	Minor changes were made to the note supporting this definition to clarify what we mean by a ‘near miss’.
‘Natural hazard’ definition	The new ‘natural hazard’ definition from the amended Regulations has been included in this Standard to support the new requirements in the updated Standard for assessing and managing risks associated with natural hazards.
‘Notifiable incident’ definition	Changes were made to this definition to ensure that any incidents declared to be notifiable incidents by Regulation 19A of the amended Regulations is included.
‘Notifiable injury or illness’ definition	A change was made to this definition to ensure that any injury or illness declared to be a notifiable injury or illness by Regulation 19B of the amended Regulations is included.
‘Provide’ definition	Minor changes were made to this definition to align with the definition used in the NZ Adventure Activities Certification Scheme.
‘Technical adviser’ definition	Changes were made to the current definition to clarify that a technical adviser is a person or group of people that has professional credentials such as a high-level, nationally or internationally recognised qualification, or extensive knowledge, skills and experience to assist an operator with various technical tasks, including advising and reviewing the policies, procedures and practices relating to an activity (and may include natural hazards if a serious risk has been identified arising from a natural hazard in the location/s where the activity is conducted).
Communication	Changes were made to this sub-section to ensure that information indicating the sources of serious risk to health and safety that participants may be exposed to and related safety requirements is made available to potential participants before the activity is booked, to enable them to make informed choices about participating in the activity.

	<p>The changes also ensure that the above information and any necessary additional information is provided to confirmed participants directly before and during participation in the activity to ensure their participation is as safe as practicable and so they are aware of any changes to safety and risk information provided previously.</p>
<p>Risk Management Measures</p>	<p>Changes were made to this sub-section to clarify the need for control measures to remain effective; be fit for purpose; be suitable for the nature and duration of the work; and be installed, set up, and used correctly.</p> <p>The changes also ensure that control measures are regularly monitored to ensure that they are still managing the risks effectively.</p>
<p>Managing Natural Hazard Risks</p>	<p>This new sub-section was added to ensure that operators have systems to identify, assess, and eliminate or minimise the serious risks arising from natural hazards in the operating area(s) where they will be conducting adventure activities. This new sub-section clarifies that when making decisions about ways to eliminate or minimise serious risks arising from natural hazards, operators should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • having clear decision criteria for postponing or canceling activities (or moving the activity to a safer location or taking an alternative route) based on any change that significantly increases risks from those natural hazards • avoiding or limiting time spent in hazard zones • ensuring emergency preparedness and response plans are workable and effective for dealing with emergencies arising from serious risks associated with natural hazards in the operating area(s), should they occur.
<p>Dynamic Management of Risks</p>	<p>Changes were made to this sub-section to ensure that operators SOPs require them to monitor, the risks associated with natural hazards within their operating area(s) and have clear decision criteria for postponing or cancelling activities (or moving the activity to a safer location or taking an</p>

	alternative route) based on any change that significantly increases risks from those natural hazards.
Supervision	Changes were made to this sub-section to ensure that operators SOPs, in relation to supervision, will specify the maximum participant numbers for the activity at any given time.
Field Communications	Changes were made to this sub-section to clarify the need for operator's procedures for enabling staff to seek assistance during the activity to include being able to establish contact with emergency services.

Workplace Inspections

Each year WorkSafe's health and safety inspectors carry out thousands (only a fraction of these in the Adventure sector!) of workplace assessments. These are proactive, planned visits and are not usually triggered by a report of serious harm or a health and safety complaint. Here is the approach to inspections and how they support WorkSafe to achieve its targets. [Inspection policy | WorkSafe](#)

Upcoming TIA Responsible Tourism Webinar

The Tiaki Promise and Consumer Behaviour Change
Thursday 26 October 2pm-3pm

To deliver a regenerative tourism experience, we also need to get our guests involved. This webinar will help you understand the Tiaki Promise and explore ways that we can help our manuhiri (guests) embrace it.

This will include a focus on rubbish collection and recycling and how we can make it easier for visitors to do the right thing.

[REGISTER HERE FOR TIAKI PROMISE WEBINAR](#)

Tourism Summit Aotearoa

Registrations for Tourism Summit Aotearoa are now open.

If you're planning to fly to Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, you can use the handy Air

New Zealand fare-finder [on our website](#). As part of our TIA Policy, we offset our carbon emissions and encourage you to do this as well.

Find more event details on the [Tourism Summit Aotearoa website](#).

REGISTER NOW

Department of Conservation Consultation

The Department of Conservation has opened consultation on a plan to restore and revive the Rakitata (Rangitata) River in Canterbury.

The draft strategy aimed to revive six sections along the river's length, including the Rangitata Gorge to Havelock confluence.

DOC noted that the Te Araroa Trail crossed the area and there was often increased tourist activity due to its feature in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

Restoration plans include increased predator control, support for large-scale restoration projects, mapping of cultural sites, and other actions.

DOC's strategy is in two parts: *Kaupapa* can be read [here](#) and *Actions – river reaches here*.

Consultation is open from 4 September to 2 October. An overview of proposed changes will be presented to the steering group on 10 November.

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