



Adventure & Outdoor Update

A joint newsletter from:



Outdoors New Zealand
Mahi Ngahau ā-Waho Aotearoa



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ASSOCIATION NEW ZEALAND

Welcome from TIA and Outdoors New Zealand

Welcome to the first Adventure and Outdoor Update. This regular newsletter from TIA and Outdoors New Zealand will help keep you up-to-date with the new adventure activity safety regulations, including key dates, new initiatives and developments, and implications for your business and sector.

Message from Geoff Ensor and Paul Chaplow

Those who deliver adventure and outdoor activities are linked by the common belief that experiences which challenge and extend personal boundaries have an immeasurable value to individuals and ultimately society. TIA and Outdoors NZ firmly believe that adventure experiences must be protected at all costs and we promoted this thinking throughout the Adventure Tourism Review, together with a range of other principles including:

- Every operator wants to avoid incidents and accidents
- The primary responsibility for safety and quality lies with the operator
- A national support structure should be comprehensive and weighted towards providing support, guidance and tools
- Operators with well embedded safety systems should not face significant additional requirements and costs
- Innovation should still be enabled
- The review represented an opportunity to be better than before

The review showed many strengths, but also highlighted areas which needed improvement; a careful industry-driven approach was then taken to decide how to address these areas.

Far from threatening the future of adventurous activities, TIA and Outdoors NZ regard the review recommendations as crucial to securing New Zealand's adventure tourism reputation and ensuring a positive future for the wide range of adventure and outdoor activities that are a core part of our brand.

The registration requirements and guidance tools will help achieve a more unified approach to safety management – nationally, within activity groups, and by each operator. In reality a large proportion of businesses already meet the criteria sought by the review as they are already fully regulated under the Civil Aviation Authority or Maritime NZ – or they have voluntarily chosen to be audited.

It's critical that the 'adventure' remains in adventure tourism, but let's also be confident that unique, personalised experiences are being delivered within a strong safety framework. To accept less will leave us vulnerable and exposed.

Both our organisations look forward to working with you.

**Geoff Ensor, TIA Advocacy Manager &
Paul Chaplow, Outdoors New Zealand Chief Executive**



Geoff Ensor



Paul Chaplow

Three weeks to go!

The new adventure activity safety regulations are due to come into force on 1 October 2011. They will clarify which activities are covered by the regulations, and which are not. TIA and Outdoors NZ will do our best to ensure you have access to the regulations as soon as they are released.

The Department of Labour received 73 submissions on the [draft regulations](#), which represent a wide range of views within the industry. DOL Senior Policy Advisor David Mulholland says it hopes to be able to report back on the consultation within the next fortnight. A copy of the report will also go on DOL's website.

"We are still on track for the regulations to come into force on 1 October. The final regulations should be available before then. Operators do not have to do anything before 1 October. After 1 October there will be plenty of time for affected operators to take any necessary steps," says David.

Contact about the regulations

David Mulholland, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Labour. DOL is responsible for implementing the notification and registration process and therefore should be your first port of call.

Contact: David Mulholland, DOL Senior Policy Advisor, PO Box 3705, Wellington, email david.mulholland@dol.govt.nz, www.dol.govt.nz



New appointments

TIA Outdoor Project Leader

Rachael Moore has been appointed TIA's Adventure and Outdoor Project Leader, a new role, dedicated to safety.

She is working with operators and organisations to develop general and activity-specific safety guidance tools – one of the actions coming out of the Adventure Tourism Review that TIA and Outdoors NZ have been charged with implementing. Rachael's also helping Outdoors NZ with work on other safety initiatives aimed at supporting the sector.

"At the heart of the role is a need to build the trust and respect of operators. Rachael will work at the frontline, interacting with operators and other key sector partners on a daily basis," says TIA Advocacy Manager Geoff Ensor.

"Rachael brings great skills and experience to the role. She's worked internationally with many different adventure tourism and outdoor commercial organisations across a broad range of areas, including designing safety management systems, working as an auditor and assessor, and in educational mentoring and training roles."

She also has extensive hands-on experience, working as an adventure guide and outdoors instructor in 13 countries in a variety of activities, including, rafting, rock climbing, kayaking and technical rescue.

Rachael says the New Zealand adventure and outdoor sectors are world renowned as leaders in their field. "These safety initiatives are yet another example of this, and I'm very excited to be working with TIA and industry to help in their implementation."

TIA and Outdoors NZ have been charged with implementing five of the recommendations to come out of the Department of Labour review into safety within the adventure tourism and outdoor commercial sector. [Read more](#)

Visit [TIA's website](#) to read more about the new adventure tourism regulations and the review.

Outdoors New Zealand Project Leader – Safety Review

Sue Gemmell will be joining the team at Outdoors New Zealand on 12 September as a Project Leader – Safety Review. She will be responsible for assisting Outdoors NZ in delivering the support recommendations relating to the Department of Labour Adventure Tourism Review, and supporting the delivery of Outdoors NZ's safety audit scheme – OutdoorsMark.

Sue joins Outdoors NZ after a strong career within the outdoor recreation sector. She is currently the Learning and Development Advisor for Outdoor Recreation and Snowsport, with Skills Active. Prior to her role at Skills Active she was at The Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre as an outdoors professional.

She is a keen outdoor recreationalist and regularly participates in mountain biking, skiing and tramping. Sue is looking forward to being part of what she views as a pivotal and exciting position in the New Zealand outdoors.



Rachael Moore



Sue Gemmell

Adventure safety guidance tool makes progress

Following input from operators around New Zealand who attended 19 workshops run by TIA and Outdoors NZ during May and June, steady progress is being made towards the



development of a web-based tool that will give adventure operators comprehensive safety guidance.

The review highlighted the lack of a one-stop-shop for operators to refer to on matters of safety, particularly in their early days of operation. One of the main areas the tool will address is safety management plans. It will contain industry-based guidance on plan content and development that will assist operators to understand and meet the audit requirement of the registration process.



Over 300 adventure and outdoor practitioners have contributed their thoughts on what topics should be in the guide, with many also offering to describe their own systems as examples for others to consider.

TIA Adventure and Outdoor Project Leader Rachael Moore is part way through contacting a number of operators and inviting them to contribute some of their safety systems and experience to the tool for others to learn from. The material is being summarised and the process of building a practical tool is well advanced. A key challenge is to provide guidance that is useful to a very diverse range of operators, provides the right level of information, but also allows plenty of room for a creative, tailored approach to safety within every operation.

Rachael anticipates having a 'working draft' of the tool and some introductory workshops before summer. It will then be further modified during autumn 2012.

To find out more, contact Rachael Moore email rachael.moore@tianz.org.nz, phone 04 495 0817, mobile 021 0225 2497.

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© 2009 TIA
4th Flr, Tourism & Travel House 79 Boulcott Street
PO BOX 1697, Wellington, New Zealand
P: +64 4 499 0104 | Email: info@tianz.org.nz | www.tianz.org.nz

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