



Adventure & Outdoor Update

A joint newsletter from:



Outdoors New Zealand
Mahi Ngahau ā-Waho Aotearoa



**tourism
INDUSTRY**
ASSOCIATION NEW ZEALAND

Welcome to the December Adventure & Outdoor Update

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Support for safety website – supportadventure.co.nz

We've had a great response to the new [supportadventure.co.nz](#) website, a “one stop shop” for information and advice on running a safe operation.

Launched earlier this month, the website is a useful tool for both new and experienced operators, featuring detailed information on how to develop a safety management plan, legislation relevant to the sector and links to other useful websites.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed their time, effort and safety knowledge to the website's development over the past nine months. The content comes from extensive operator consultation, including 19 workshops attended by more than 300 operators, as well as focus groups and discussions with a range of individual businesses and organisations.

As well as a very enthusiastic operator response, the website has generated good media coverage and is helping to boost the profile of New Zealand adventure operators as world leaders in safety.

To the best of our knowledge, this website, with its breadth and depth of adventure and outdoor safety information in one place is a world first. The ‘Support from the field’ section where operators share safety information is a really innovative feature.

While [supportadventure.co.nz](#) is aimed at operators who have to be registered under the new adventure activities regulations, it will also be useful to volunteer organisations, clubs, schools and tertiary institutions.

The website was developed by TIA with support from Outdoors NZ and funding from the Department of Labour (DOL) as a



result of the government-led Adventure Tourism Review.

Send us your feedback

We want you to trial supportadventure.co.nz over the summer months and tell us what you like about it, where the gaps are and what needs to be altered. Fill out the short [online survey](#). It will only take a few minutes, but it will help ensure the website is as useful as possible to you and your staff.

Culture of sharing

You can help us promote a culture of sharing safety information by contributing your safety tips and insights to supportadventure.co.nz. To discuss this please contact TIA Adventure & Outdoor Project Leader Rachael Moore, email Rachael.moore@tianz.org.nz, phone 04 385 7287 mobile 027 436 5612.



Adventure & outdoor operator workshops

We have almost completed 11 workshops across the country, updating adventure and outdoor operators on the new [adventure activities regulations](#) and how they will affect your business, and gathering operator feedback for the Department of Labour to ensure their upcoming regulation guidelines will be as useful as possible. The workshops were also an opportunity to update operators on progress against some of the other actions coming out of the [Adventure Tourism Review](#).

The general feeling from participants was that the new regulations are a positive move that will strengthen safety across the adventure tourism and outdoor commercial sector, and that they won't have a major operational or financial impact on the many operators who are operating at current accepted industry practice and are already undergoing external audits.

The workshops attracted a good turn-out, especially considering the time of the year and the pressures on operators during the busy summer months. If you couldn't attend the workshops check out supportadventure.co.nz or email [Sue Gemmell](#) at Outdoors NZ or [Rachael Moore](#) at TIA if you still have any questions.

Adventure activities regulations - update

Guidelines

DOL's guidelines to help operators identify whether they are affected by the regulations are due for release by February 2012.

We are forwarding questions and suggestions that came out of the workshops (see above item) to DOL to assist with guideline content.

Notification

Operators who know they are affected by the new regulations need to notify DOL of their operation. You can do this on DOL's [website](#), or via post or fax.

If you are unclear about whether you are affected by the regulations, DOL says you can wait until its guidance document is released. If you are still unsure, notify DOL about your operation and they will tell you if you are covered by the regulations or not. The deadline for notification is 30 April 2012.

Audits



DOL will announce audit standards and the criteria for recognising audit providers by February 2012. All operators covered by the regulations will have to undergo a safety audit by a recognised auditor. DOL says the cost of an audit is likely to depend on the risk level of the activity and the complexity of the business.

To give operators time to comply with the regulations, a three-year transition period will be in place from November 2011. This means that by November 2014 all affected operators must be audited and registered, though DOL may require some operators and activities to be audited before then (more information will be provided in DOL's regulations guidelines). For more information see supportadventure.co.nz

More information

Read DOL's [Q&As](#) for more information on what the new regulations mean for operators.

Research projects

DOL has contracted Outdoors NZ with support from TIA to undertake the following two research projects, designed to support the sector.

Incident-wide reporting system

We are investigating the value of a sector-wide incident reporting system. As part of this we are looking at sector interest in such a system and likely engagement and concerns. We are also completing a stocktake of what is currently being used to gather and report on incident data in the sector.

We will consult with operators when the work is completed, before reporting back to DOL with our recommendations.

Levels & measures of competency

We are investigating what the appropriate levels and measures of competency are for adventure and outdoor commercial sector instructors and guides. This includes looking at whether instructors and guides should be required to hold qualifications and work only within the scope of their qualifications for some activities. We will be establishing an advisory group to assist with this scoping exercise.

We welcome input on these projects. Email [Sue Gemmell](#), Outdoors NZ Project Leader - Safety Review.



Activity specific guidelines

DOL has contracted TIA to provide additional guidance to better inform adventure and outdoor commercial sector operators about their current responsibilities, particularly activity specific guidance. This includes TIA with the support of Outdoors NZ finalising three activity specific guidelines by mid-2012. Work on these will begin shortly.

We are also establishing a process to review existing guidelines, agree how to develop new guidelines, consistent areas of content, and where the guidelines should be hosted. A Project Advisory Group is providing input into how best to do this. Once a draft process is established it will be sent out for sector-wide consultation.

Next update

Our next update will be distributed in February 2012. We will send out a 'newsflash' if the DOL guidelines are released earlier. Until then, check supportadventure.co.nz for any regulations updates.

Happy holidays

Wishing everyone a very safe, happy and profitable festive season.

Sue and Rachael

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