

# Adventure & Outdoor Update

**SupportAdventure.co.nz**  
SAFETY SYSTEMS DRIVEN BY SAFETY CULTURE



[Audit & registration deadline looming](#)

[Get audit ready workshop](#)

[Do you need to register?](#)

[Audit standard & audit providers](#)

[TIA staff update](#)

[Activity Safety Guidelines update](#)

[Collaborating on safety](#)

## Audit & registration deadline looming

If your operation needs to be registered under the [adventure activities regulations](#) then start your audit process now.

Operators who are not registered by November 2014 will be operating illegally. They will run the risk of prosecution, significant fines and potentially operating outside the terms and conditions of their insurance cover.

We know from the experience of operators in the aviation sector that preparing and passing an audit takes longer than expected. Outdoors NZ says an operator undergoing an OutdoorsMark audit needs to allow plenty of time to start the process, get audited and do any follow-up required to complete the audit. Call Garth Gulley or Ginette Harborne at Outdoors NZ, phone 04 385 7287, for more information. They can talk you through the process.

### Deadlines

Operators who have notified the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) that they need to be registered will receive a letter advising that they have three months to initiate an audit (a contract with an audit provider) and a further six months to pass an audit. [Click here](#) to see the timetable (page 3). You don't have to wait for the letter. You can start your audit immediately.

MBIE, the government agency responsible for enforcing the regulations, is concerned that a log-jam for audits will occur from mid-2014. It stresses that the regulations don't allow for any reasons for not complying with the November 2014 deadline.

## Get audit ready workshop

TIA and Outdoors NZ are running a six-hour workshop from mid-October to mid-November at 13 locations around the country to help operators get audit ready.

[Click here](#) to see workshop dates, locations and [registration](#).

An OutdoorsMark auditor will be facilitating at every workshop to ensure your audit preparation is as effective and efficient as possible.

## Do you need to register?

MBIE says some operators are still unsure whether they're subject to the Adventure Activities Regulations 2011 which require them to undergo a safety audit and be registered.

The onus for determining this lies firstly with operators. [Click here](#) to read MBIE's guidance document or contact Stu Allan. Stu is MBIE's Principal Advisor – Adventure Activities, Health & Safety Group, email [stu.allan@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:stu.allan@mbie.govt.nz), phone 04 890 6807.

Stu says some operators have contracted an advisor to help clarify their responsibilities. Others discuss the extent of their 'adventure activities' with a safety auditor. For the purposes of the regulations, auditors can only audit 'adventure activities', so they need to work with operators to determine those activities.

### Independent contractors

Independent contractors (sole operators) don't have to begin the registration process in 2013 while MBIE and the sector work on the best way forward for them. However, sole operators will need to register by 1 November 2014 like all other operators.

Visit the [SupportAdventure website](#) for more information on the adventure activities regulations and MBIE updates.

## Still unsure?

If you are still unsure of your responsibilities, contact Stu Allan now, email [stu.allan@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:stu.allan@mbie.govt.nz), phone 04 890 6807.

## Audit standard & audit providers

Visit [SupportAdventure](#) to read the audit standard and find contact information for recognised audit providers.

## Industry benchmark information

Visit the SupportAdventure website - [safety management systems section](#) to check that your operation is at or above the industry benchmark.

## Seeking Auditors

OutdoorsMark is seeking expressions of interest from people who would like to be auditors or technical experts. Technical and non-technical skill requirements can be obtained from OutdoorsMark Programme Manager, Garth Gulley, by emailing [safety@outdoorsnz.org.nz](mailto:safety@outdoorsnz.org.nz), or phone 04 385 7287.

## Audit Scheme Rules

Outdoors NZ and TIA thank everyone who responded to the audit scheme rules consultation round. There has been another Technical Committee meeting to consider feedback. The latest draft of the scheme rules are now with MBIE for final development.

---

## TIA staff update

TIA Adventure & Outdoor Project Leader Rachael Moore will be based in Wanaka from the New Year. TIA is pleased we will have a presence in one of the country's main adventure tourism hubs. Rachael will continue to travel throughout the county regularly in the course of her work, in particular working with operators to develop Activity Safety Guidelines.

Long-time TIA Advocacy Manager Geoff Ensor left this role at the end of September to take up a new position as Director, Commercial Partnership Unit with the Department of Conservation. We are looking forward to continuing a close working relationship with Geoff, given many adventure tourism and outdoor operators conduct their business on public conservation land.



Rachael Moore

---

## Activity Safety Guidelines update

### Coming up

The next two Activity Safety Guidelines to be developed are diving and coastering. Please contact Rachael Moore email [rachael.moore@tianza.org.nz](mailto:rachael.moore@tianza.org.nz) by 1 November if you would like to be part of the development groups.

[Click here](#) for more information about the development process.



Photo: Dive! Tutukaka

### Abseiling - consultation

The [Abseiling Activity Safety Guideline](#) (ASG) is now available for one month of public consultation. If this ASG is relevant to your business, please trial it and pass on any feedback by 1 November 2013 to [rachael.moore@tianza.org.nz](mailto:rachael.moore@tianza.org.nz)

Congratulations to the working and support groups on developing this ASG.

### Completed & on-line

The following ASGs have now been completed and are available on the [SupportAdventure website](#):

- All Terrain Vehicles
- Canyoning
- Caving
- Climbing on Artificial Structures
- Heli-Skiing

The High wire and swing ASG will be with support group for comment very soon.

The ASGs are living documents and feedback to Rachael Moore email [rachael.moore@tianza.org.nz](mailto:rachael.moore@tianza.org.nz) is welcome at any time.

### No ASG - what can I do?

Some activity groups not yet supported by an ASG are developing their own guidance material – fantastic! Working together, sharing safety information, ensuring you are operating to good practice will help strengthen safety across our important sector.



Photo: Adrenalin Forest

It's important your activity group feels it has ownership of the guidance you develop and that content is accurate, covers the expected topic areas and is checked against how other sectors manage similar risks and hazards. To assist with this you can:

- use the [ASG description document](#) and the structure of existing ASGs as a guide
- follow the [ASG development process](#) as closely as possible

- make sure you understand where independently developed guidance material sits relative to regulations and the MBIE supported ASGs - [read more](#)

Independently developed guidelines won't be published on the SupportAdventure website. The website can list contact information for your activity group in the [other resources section](#) and can let the sector know that you have developed guidance via this newsletter.

If your sector doesn't have an ASG, at least talk with your peers and ideally carry out reciprocal peer reviews to ensure that you are operating at industry good practice and that safety information is being shared. Ensure staff are suitably competent and use nationally recognised qualifications wherever possible.

Audits will check that an operator delivers an activity as per industry good practice. Audits will use ASGs as a benchmark of industry good practice. Where an activity doesn't have an ASG, auditors will check industry good practice by using technical expert knowledge and many choose to refer to other guidance material.

For more information contact Rachael Moore, email [rachael.moore@tianz.org.nz](mailto:rachael.moore@tianz.org.nz)

---

## Collaborating on safety

### NZ Mountain Guides Association

NZMGA is running a seminar for their members in Wanaka on 1 November, including a session on safety audits run by OutdoorsMark auditor Hugh Bernard. For more information contact [admin@nzmga.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzmga.org.nz)

### NZ Outdoor Instructors Association

NZOIA is running its annual symposium in Anakiwa, 31 October - 3 November 2013. The symposium aims to encourage the professional development of NZOIA 'on-the-ground' instructors and has a practical focus. It provides a forum to network, upskill, train and revalidate NZOIA qualifications. For more information contact [admin@nzoia.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzoia.org.nz)



Photo: Alpine Recreation Canterbury

### The World Outdoors Summit 2013

The World Outdoors Summit 2013, 19 - 22 November 2013, Rotorua Events Centre, is an international outdoor recreation, education and adventure conference hosted by Outdoors New Zealand. The key theme is the value of the outdoors to society. Presenters include international and local thought leaders including TIA Chief Executive Martin Snedden, adventurer and TV presenter Jamie Fitzgerald, Nick Smith, Minister of Conservation, and Davey Hughes, Swazi clothing owner. Earlybird ticket prices are about to end, so to get the discount code for TIA and ONZ members email [jaya@outdoorsnz.org.nz](mailto:jaya@outdoorsnz.org.nz). View the programme and register at [www.wos2013.com](http://www.wos2013.com)

### Whanganui river users group

The new Whanganui River User Group met last week. Representatives from DOC, NZ Police/Search & Rescue and TIA joined river (jet boat and canoe) operators to plan for the upcoming summer season. This year, river levels, poor weather forecasts and commercial operation limits were a hot topic with operators leading a conservative approach under the guidance of the new User Group chair, Simon Dixon from Canoe Safaris.

---

As we've stressed in this newsletter, if you haven't already done so, it's vital you start preparing for a safety audit now, to ensure the process runs as smoothly as possible and in plenty of time to meet the November 2014 deadline. Attending the TIA/Outdoors NZ workshop over the coming weeks is a great place to start!

### Rachael and Garth

**Rachael Moore, TIA Adventure & Outdoor Project Leader, email [rachael.moore@tianz.org.nz](mailto:rachael.moore@tianz.org.nz), phone 04 495 0817 mobile 021 0225 2497, [www.tianz.org.nz](http://www.tianz.org.nz)**

**Garth Dawson, Outdoors NZ Chief Executive, email [ce@outdoors.org.nz](mailto:ce@outdoors.org.nz), phone 04 385 7287, [www.outdoorsnz.org.nz](http://www.outdoorsnz.org.nz)**

Adventure & Outdoor Updates sent on 10 October 2013.