

# Adventure & Outdoor Update

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



**Outdoors New Zealand**  
Mahi Ngahau ā-Waho Aotearoa



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## Action-packed year

The first year of work on the Adventure Tourism Review recommendations is nearing an end and it's been an action packed 12 months with real progress being made on initiatives to strengthen safety across the sector.

### Highlights:

- the world-first [SupportAdventure website](#) is up and running, giving New Zealand's adventure tourism and commercial outdoor operators a one-stop-shop for information and advice on running a safe operation
- investigations have been completed into a unified incident database system and measures and levels of competence, with final reports due for release soon
- the pilot stage of the Activity Safety Guidelines project is nearly completed. A draft guideline development process has been established and is being trialled, initially with indoor rock climbing, canyoning and caving sector groups
- New [adventure activities regulations](#) governing the adventure tourism and commercial outdoor sector were finalised and took effect from 1 November 2011
- In early April 2012 the Department of Labour (DOL) released [guidance](#) to help operators understand the regulations and how they apply to their activities
- At the end of April 2012 DOL had received more than 400 notifications under the new adventure activities regulations, which it described as a "fantastic response"

TIA and Outdoors NZ are working with DOL to ensure future work plans continue to meet the recommendations of the review. Visit [SupportAdventure](#) for more information.



Photo: Richard Walker-Randall

## Drugs & alcohol – managing the hazard

Following two accident reports that showed the presence of cannabis in staff in safety-critical roles and media scrutiny on how drugs and alcohol are managed within the adventure and outdoor sector, TIA has been communicating with DOL, Maritime NZ, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Civil Aviation Authority about this issue. All those agencies are committed to developing a suite of clear, consistent and tailored information on this issue for operators.



While each of these organisations will no doubt hold their own information, [SupportAdventure](#) will also be a key place to get practical guidance on managing drugs and alcohol. We are planning to have a comprehensive package of information available on the website in the next three months.

We will continue to keep you updated on progress, but in the meantime we urge you to talk with your teams and reinforce your zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol in the workplace. In addition, ensure you read what is available to help guide your management, including the following information on the DOL website:

- [Laws on drug testing in the workplace](#)
- [Information on the effects of drugs in the workplace](#)

## Are your staff competent?

Are you looking at staffing for the coming winter, or planning ahead for next summer? Competent staff are one of the mainstays of ensuring that you have a safe operation and the way you verify staff competence must be suitable. Read more on verifying staff competence on [SupportAdventure](#), including a practical [checklist](#) to help ensure you have all your bases covered.

## Do you need to use overseas staff?

TIA has won agreement from the Immigration Minister to waive the requirement for tourism operators to offer at least 30 hours of work per week to skilled outdoor adventure guides on temporary work permits.

This is a big win for operators who can't find skilled New Zealand staff to do the job and have to recruit competent overseas-based individuals. Some operators were having difficulties meeting Immigration New Zealand's (INZ) requirement for 30 hours of work per week in occupations that are highly weather dependent, particularly in the case of skilled outdoor adventure guides on temporary work permits.

The Immigration Minister has agreed to waive the 30 hour per week requirement for these workers as part of a [pilot](#) which is being run through to the end of September 2013. The pilot programme will then be evaluated to see whether a change in immigration policy is needed. [Read more](#) about the pilot criteria.

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## Department of Labour - notification & audit

DOL is accepting late [notifications](#) under the adventure activities regulations. If you are unsure whether you are required to notify, read DOL's [guidance document](#) and [FAQs](#). If you are still unsure, phone DOL on 0800 20 90 20. DOL will let you know if you notify but aren't covered by the regulations.

We will let you know on [SupportAdventure](#) and via this Update when DOL publishes the audit standard and interim list of audit providers.

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## TIA & Outdoors NZ projects update

### TIA - Activity Safety Guidelines

The final draft of the Activity Safety Guidelines (ASG) development process will be sent out for review on the [SupportAdventure](#) website within the next few weeks. Keep an eye out for the new ASG button on the home page.

The indoor rock climbing, caving and canyoning ASGs are in the final stages of development. Work has also begun on the development on the mechanised access guided (i.e. heli-ski and snowcat) and instructed ski and snowboarding ASG. The first meeting of the working group is in Queenstown on 14 June. Please email [Rachael](#) if you would like more information.



Rachael Moore

### Outdoors NZ - new reports

#### Competency measures and levels

The scoping investigation into appropriate measures and levels of competency has been completed. The report from this scoping exercise aims to inform DOL about further investigation on the appropriate levels and measures of competency for adventure and outdoor commercial sector instructors and guides.

In preparing this report, Outdoors NZ has drawn on established research as well as consulting people and organisations within and outside the industry. [Read more](#). The full report will be posted on [SupportAdventure](#) for feedback and comment later this month.



Sue Gemmell

### Incident report system

Outdoors NZ is also working on the community-wide incident reporting system project. This project falls under the recommendation that requires better and more consistent information on and for the adventure and outdoor commercial sectors to be collected, collated and disseminated.

We welcome input on both these projects. Please email Outdoors New Zealand Project Leader [Sue Gemmell](#).

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## Another industry-led safety initiative

The safety of people undertaking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing has been further strengthened following a meeting of local tourism operators and interested organisations. [Click here](#) to read more.



Photo: Kiwi Experience

We hope the 'winter' operators amongst you are ready for a very successful season, with effective safety systems in place, plenty of snow and plenty of visitors!

### Sue & Rachael

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(Main photo: Arthur's Pass by Sebastian Reznick)