Title	Apply knowledge of river rescue skills on Grade III or above whitewater rivers		
Level	4	Credits	10

Purpose	This unit standard is intended for people who guide or intend to guide commercial river trips on Grade III or above whitewater river environments. People credited with this unit standard are able to: explain river dynamics and features and their effects on craft and people; demonstrate the ability to move quickly and confidently, and communicate with others, in Grade III or above whitewater rivers; and apply knowledge of rescue equipment in river rescue situations, rope systems used in whitewater river rescue situations, and rescue techniques suitable for Grade III or above whitewater rivers.

Classification	Outdoor Recreation > Rafting

Available grade	Achieved

Explanatory notes

1   All activities must comply with the policies, procedures and requirements of the operator involved and any relevant legislative and/or regulatory requirements which include but are not limited to – Department of Conservation *New Zealand Environmental Care Code* and *New Zealand Water Care Code;* Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992; Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2001; Maritime Transport Act 1994; Maritime Rule Part 80 *Marine Craft Involved in Adventure Tourism*; Maritime Rule Part 91 *Navigation Safety Rules*; and their subsequent amendments, and relevant Maritime New Zealand safety guidelines.

2   All river guiding activities must be logged. Logged information must include but is not limited to – dates, river, section, duration, water level, grade, craft type, trip leader, participant and guide numbers, accidents and incidents. Log books can be obtained from New Zealand Rafting Association http://www.nz-rafting.co.nz.

3   This unit standard is part of the National Raft Guide Award Grade III and Grade IV/V, and is intended to form part of the National Whitewater Boarding Guide Award.

4   This standard may be assessed in simulated conditions.

5   Recommended resource – Franco Ferrero, *Whitewater Safety and Rescue*, 2nd Edition, Pesda Press, 2006 http://www.pesdapress.com.

6   Behaviour during assessment demonstrates environmental care and consideration of other river users, consistent with the *Environmental Care Code* and *Water Care Code*, and current industry practice.

7   Definitions
      Current industry practice refers to practices promoted through industry national forums, newsletters and assessments, and which are generally accepted by experienced practitioners as safe and relevant. These will be consistent with any applicable regulatory requirements and/or manufacturers' recommendations. Applicable regulatory requirements and manufacturers' recommendations may be specified in evidence requirements where particular emphasis is required.
      Craft is a non-powered whitewater vessel manned by one or more people.

Outcomes and evidence requirements

Outcome 1

Explain river dynamics and features and their effects on craft and people.

Evidence requirements

1.1   River dynamics and features are identified and their effects on craft and people are clearly explained.

    Range   flow type (laminar, helical) and volume, eddies, boils, seams, pillows (buffer or cushion), holes (reversal or hydraulic), weirs, standing waves, lateral waves, tongues, upstream and downstream Vs, rapid grades, strainers, sieves, undercuts, bluffs.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate the ability to move quickly and confidently, and communicate with others, in Grade III or above whitewater rivers.

Evidence requirements

2.1   On-river communication with other guides is clear, effective, uses recognised river signals and includes acknowledgement of signals received.

2.2   Confident movement in and around river environments is demonstrated.

2.3   Entrapment avoidance techniques are demonstrated in accordance with current industry practice.

    Range   entrapment avoidance – strainer swim, whitewater float position, self-rescue swimming.

2.4   Crossing techniques appropriate for the river are demonstrated in accordance with current industry practice.

    Range   solo, group.

Outcome 3

Apply knowledge of rescue equipment in river rescue situations.

Evidence requirements

3.1   Personal safety equipment is selected and its selection is justified.

3.2   Technical rescue equipment is selected and its selection is justified.

     Range   static rope, carabiners, pulleys, Prusik loops, slings or lengths of rope.

Outcome 4

Apply knowledge of rope systems used in whitewater river rescue situations.

Evidence requirements

4.1   Rope types are compared in terms of qualities and limitations for use in river rescues.

     Range   static, dynamic, polypropylene, nylon, spectra.

4.2   Knowledge of the purpose, use and limitations of rope rescue knots, bends and hitches is applied in river rescue situations.

     Range   knots include but are not limited to – bowline, tape or water, figure eight, follow-through figure eight, figure eight on a bight, double figure eight, alpine butterfly;
     bends include but are not limited to – fishermans, sheet;
     hitches include but are not limited to – Prusik, truckers, half, clove, Italian.

4.3   Knowledge of rope systems used for rescues in whitewater river environments is applied in accordance with current industry practice.

     Range   must include but not limited to – vector pulls, Z drag, pig rigs, 2:1.

4.4   Application of rope systems demonstrates understanding of maximum limits on loading gear and protects people and equipment.

Outcome 5

Apply knowledge of rescue techniques suitable for Grade III or above whitewater rivers.

Evidence requirements

5.1   Throw-line rescues are demonstrated in accordance with current industry practice.

        Range   throw bags deployed accurately over 20 m, re-coil and throw (within 20 seconds).

5.2   Static and dynamic belay technique is demonstrated during throw line rescues in accordance with current industry practice.

        Range   selection of access and retrieval point.

5.3   Strong swimming rescue techniques for whitewater river environments are demonstrated in accordance with current industry practice.

        Range   may include – tethered swimmer, contact swim towing, lifeguard defensive techniques, unconscious victim support.

5.4   Entrapment recovery techniques are demonstrated in accordance with current industry practice.

        Range   entrapment recovery – tethered rescuer, support lines, tethered craft, extraction with lines.

5.5   Effective placement of craft to provide assistance in a rescue situation is demonstrated in accordance with current industry practice.

5.6   Techniques for the retrieval of pinned or trapped craft are demonstrated in accordance with current industry practice.

5.7   Risk assessment of river rescue situations and appropriate prioritisation of actions is demonstrated in accordance with current industry practice.

        Range   personal and group safety, airway priority, casualty stabilisation, incident containment, up-stream and down-stream cover.

Planned review date	31 December 2014

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	17 September 2010	N/A

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference	0099

This AMAP can be accessed at http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do.

Please note
Providers must be granted consent to assess against standards (accredited) by NZQA, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be granted consent to assess against standards by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Providers and Industry Training Organisations, which have been granted consent and which are assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Consent requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Skills Active Aotearoa Limited info@skillsactive.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.