



Australian Government

SISOSKT408A Apply snow craft skills for overnight touring

Release 3

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Modification History

The release details of this endorsed unit of competency are set out in the table below. the latest information is at the top.

Release	Comments
2.1	Editorial correction to Guidance information for assessment.

Unit Descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to safely undertake overnight activities in a snow environment including the ability to identify and negotiate potential avalanche conditions and construct snow shelters.

Application of the Unit

This unit applies to those working as skiing or snowboarding leaders who conduct overnight tours in a range of snow conditions. This may apply to those working at lodges and resorts or outdoor education or adventure providers, volunteer groups, not-for-profit organisations or government agencies.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

No licensing, regulatory or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of endorsement.

Pre-Requisites

Nil

Employability Skills Information

This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Not applicable.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the Evidence Guide.

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| 1. Plan for overnight snow activity. | <p>1.1. Identify and plan <i>food and water requirements</i> according to <i>principles of nutrition</i> and the <i>conditions</i> and <i>duration</i> of the <i>snow activity</i>.</p> <p>1.2. Determine an appropriate site for the overnight snow activity according to <i>contextual issues, relevant legislation</i> and <i>organisational policies and procedures</i>.</p> <p>1.3. Identify possible <i>hazards</i> associated with the overnight snow activity.</p> <p>1.4. Identify the signs, symptoms, prevention and treatment of possible <i>risks</i> associated with the snow activity.</p> |
| 2. Select and carry equipment. | <p>2.1. Select <i>equipment</i> after consideration of construction features and contextual issues, and check serviceability.</p> <p>2.2. Adjust and fit equipment, according to manufacturer's specification, to ensure <i>comfort and safety</i>.</p> <p>2.3. Identify <i>minimum emergency and safety equipment</i> to be carried while participating in the overnight snow activity.</p> <p>2.4. Use protective clothing and apply pace of travel and other methods to reduce the possibility of hypothermia.</p> |
| 3. Negotiate snow conditions. | <p>3.1. Access <i>relevant sources</i> to interpret <i>weather and environmental information</i> and determine activity plans.</p> <p>3.2. Identify the effect of weather and snow conditions on the snowpack and the planned activity.</p> <p>3.3. Identify potential avalanche terrain using knowledge of <i>factors contributing to avalanches</i>.</p> <p>3.4. Select, where necessary, a line of travel which reduces exposure to avalanches.</p> |
| 4. Construct an | <p>4.1. Determine <i>factors</i> to be considered when locating</p> |

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

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|----------------------------|---|
| emergency shelter. | and building emergency shelters. |
| | 4.2. Select and justify snow shelter site and <i>type of emergency snow shelter</i> . |
| | 4.3. Construct an emergency snow shelter according to the site and conditions. |
| 5. Evaluate snow activity. | 5.1. Evaluate <i>relevant aspects</i> of the activity. |
| | 5.2. Identify improvements for future overnight snow activities and experiences. |

Required Skills and Knowledge

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- planning and organising skills to allocate and select relevant food, water, clothing and equipment for the overnight snow activity
- communication skills to interact with other participants to maintain a positive and safe environment
- problem-solving skills to:
 - respond to changing conditions
 - navigate along safe lines to an overnight destination
 - make decisions about potential hazards
 - determine activity-specific skills to use according to the conditions
- literacy skills to analyse, interpret and apply weather and environmental information, relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures
- self management skills to:
 - review and reflect on own performance
 - set goals to improve technique
- first aid and emergency response skills appropriate to the location to enable initial response to emergencies such as an avalanche, and personal health care.

Required knowledge

- legislation and organisational policies and procedures to enable safe conduct of all overnight snowcraft activities
- Alpine Responsibility Code, safe mountain travelling, and minimal impact codes to ensure safety and protection of environment
- equipment types, characteristics and technology used for overnight snow activities, the advantages and disadvantages, and factors affecting appropriate selection of equipment
- clothing requirements for outdoor activities and factors affecting appropriate clothing selection, such as layering and protective clothing
- principles of nutrition to maintain health and energy throughout the overnight snow trip
- snow shelter construction techniques to locate and build a snow shelter in emergency circumstances
- signs, symptoms and first aid of common snow-related conditions such as hypothermia to enable efficient treatment
- weather and environmental information and factors affecting snow conditions to ascertain possible impact on activities
- emergency procedures and potential hazards, such as avalanches, relevant to the location to ensure risk minimisation to self and others.

Evidence Guide

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Overview of assessment

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

Evidence of the following is essential:

- plans equipment and supply requirements appropriate to the conditions and duration of the overnight snow activity
- identifies potential hazards and risks associated with the snow activity and applies knowledge of weather and snow conditions to take adequate safety precautions in potential avalanche areas
- demonstrates the construction of a range of emergency snow shelters to accommodate a small group of people reflects on own performance and identifies any areas requiring improvements.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Assessment must ensure participation in multiple overnight snowcraft activities at a suitable snow location to demonstrate competency and consistency of performance.

Assessment must also ensure access to:

- a suitable snow location to undertake snow activities and overnight stays
- activity-specific, navigation, overnight, emergency, first aid and rescue equipment
- resources and information to plan and prepare for the overnight snow activity.

Method of assessment

A range of assessment methods should be used to assess practical skills and knowledge. The following examples are appropriate for this unit:

- oral or written questioning to assess knowledge of personal safety strategies and techniques used in snow conditions
- observation of safe participation and demonstration of safe overnight snowcraft skills, such as selecting a safe line of travel which reduces exposure to avalanches
- third-party reports from a supervisor detailing performance.

Holistic assessment with other units relevant to the

industry sector, workplace and job role is recommended. Industry has determined that this unit may be assessed with the following unit:

- SISOOPS202A Use and maintain a temporary or overnight site
- SISOSKT303A Day ski tour away from a patrolled area
- SISOSKT304A Guide day ski tours
- SISOSKB302A Snowboard on intermediate terrain
- SISOSKB303A Guide day snowboarding activities.

Range Statement

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. Essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) may also be included.

Food and water requirements may include:

- menu planning and preparation
- range of foods.

Principles of nutrition may include:

- food groups
- dietary guidelines
- individual food requirements and allergies.

Conditions may include:

- surface snow
- snow stability
- steepness of slope
- run-out
- terrain features
- visibility
- wind
- sun.

Duration may include:

- overnight
- several nights.

Snow activity may include:

- snowboarding activities
- skiing activities.

Contextual issues may include:

- weather conditions, including times
- season
- transport
- location
- trip distance and duration
- group objectives
- group size.

Relevant legislation may include:

- occupational health and safety
- permits or permission for access
- environmental regulations.

Organisational policies and procedures may include:

- occupational health and safety
- use and maintenance of equipment
- communication protocols
- emergency procedures
- snowsport area signs and regulations
- Alpine Responsibility Code

- Hazards** may include:
- code of ethics.
 - poor visibility
 - temperature extremes
 - difficult snow conditions
 - dense vegetation
 - group management hazards.group management hazards.
- Risks** may include:
- hypothermia
 - heat exhaustion
 - injuries
 - exhaustion
 - lost party or party member
 - equipment misuse.
- Comfort and safety** may include:
- length, weight and width of ski
 - grip and glide zones of skis
 - flex and shape of ski
 - edges tuned
 - free-heel
 - longitudinal rigidity
 - surfaces waxed and or cleaned
 - length of poles and basket type
 - bindings and boots in good working order.
- Equipment** may include:
- personal clothing
 - goggles orglasses
 - activity-specific equipment
 - overnight pack or sled
 - overnight equipment
 - navigation equipment
 - safety and rescue equipment
 - communication equipment
 - first aid equipment
 - snow shovel.
- Minimum emergency and safety equipment** may include:
- whistle
 - matches
 - space blanket.
- Relevant sources** may include:
- Bureau of Meteorology
 - media
 - land managers or agencies
 - ski patrol
 - local knowledge.
- Weather and environmental**
- satellite images

information may include:

- daily and weekly forecasts
- maximum and minimum temperatures
- event warnings
- river level
- synoptic charts.

Factors contributing to avalanches may include:

- slope angle
- elevation
- weather
- deposition
- snow pack structure
- local instability
- topography.

Factors may include:

- construction time versus available time
- equipment
- weather
- physical and mental state of the party
- suitability of the snow and location.

Type of emergency snow shelter may include:

- snow mould
- igloo
- snow cave
- trench
- improvised shelter.

Relevant aspects may include:

- objectives
- planning process
- activity site
- weather
- equipment selection
- clothing selection
- food selection
- rescue techniques employed.

Unit Sector(s)

Outdoor Recreation

Competency Field

Skiing - Ski Touring