



**Australian Government**

**Assessment Requirements for  
SISOBWG003 Bushwalk in extremely  
difficult tracked and untracked  
environments**

**Release: 1**

# Assessment Requirements for SISOBWG003 Bushwalk in extremely difficult tracked and untracked environments

## Modification History

Not applicable.

## Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- complete three walks, including one lasting for a minimum of three days
- during each walk:
  - maintain an effective walking rhythm by:
    - maintaining same stride and pace
    - allowing natural body swing
    - avoiding jerky movements or springing
  - use techniques to ascend steps and slopes:
    - placing feet down flat with a deliberate step
    - resting heels on any available projections
    - zig-zagging
    - using walking aids and ropes as handlines
  - use techniques to descend steps and slopes:
    - placing toes against projections to avoid overstriding
    - avoiding placing feet down heavily
    - flat-footed or stiff-heeled technique
    - using walking aids and ropes as handlines
  - use walking techniques specific to the environmental terrain
  - consistently follow safety procedures and safely negotiate hazards.

## Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- organisational safety and emergency response procedures for walking activities
- contents of the Australian Walking Track Grading System, in particular the specifications for grade 5 tracks
- suitable clothing and footwear for the particular region or locality in which outdoor recreational walks are delivered:
  - types of clothing and fabrics that protect against the effects of local weather conditions including sun, temperatures, winds, and precipitation of different levels and extremes

- reasons for layering clothes
- effective fabrics/materials, design and construction features of waterproof gear and walking boots suitable for walking in extremely difficult tracked environments
- gaiters and their purpose
- as relevant, purpose and features of specialist aids
- purpose, features, advantages and disadvantages of walking poles
- effective design and construction features of back packs
- techniques used to effectively pack items for ease of access and maximum usage of space
- waterproofing and stowing techniques used to keep clothing, food and resources dry during walking activities
- how to care for clothing, footwear, backpacks and other equipment during and after activities to avoid damage, and promote long lifespan
- safe manual handling techniques used to:
  - lift and carry backpacks of various weights
  - haul backpacks to negotiate hazards
- communication protocols for group walks in extremely difficult tracked environments to include:
  - calls
  - hand signals
  - whistles
  - radio
- how to maintain an effective walking rhythm:
  - maintaining same stride and pace
  - allowing natural body swing
  - avoiding jerky movements or springing
- techniques used to ascend prolonged steep slopes:
  - placing feet down flat with a deliberate step
  - resting heels on any available projections
  - zig-zagging
  - keeping weight over feet, not leaning into the slope
  - using walking aids and ropes as handlines
- techniques used to descend prolonged steep slopes:
  - placing toes against projections to avoid overstriding and fatigue
  - avoiding placing feet down heavily
  - flat-footed or stiff-heeled technique
  - using walking aids and ropes as handlines
- factors that affect the selection of tie-off points and anchors for handlines, knots and how to tie them
- typical hazards for walking in extremely difficult tracked environments, and techniques used to safely negotiate these:
  - roots

- rocks
- fallen tree logs
- unstable track surface: slippery, rocky or loose tread
- dense and overhanging vegetation
- water crossings
- hazardous flora and fauna
- temperature extremes
- exposure to storms, heavy rain, hail and strong wind
- techniques used to minimise damage to the natural environments when walking
- for the particular region or locality in which outdoor recreational walks are delivered which may include those for bushland, arid, alpine, tropical or other environments:
  - specific walking techniques used for the environmental terrain
  - specific hazards and techniques used to safely negotiate these
  - specific environmental considerations and minimal impact techniques when walking.

## Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a setting where bushwalking activities are delivered in extremely difficult tracked or untracked environments. Tracks and environments must feature the following:

- be rough unformed tracks with no modification to the natural surface
- have surfaces that are variable and challenging with prolonged unstable sections
- have constant natural obstacles such as rocky or loose tread, roots, rocks, fallen tree logs and dense vegetation
- have steep sections and very arduous climbs
- have no signage or route markers at any point.

If in an alpine region, assessment can occur if ground is covered by snow.

The following resources must be available to replicate industry conditions of operation:

- first aid equipment
- communication equipment for emergency response.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- a group of participants with whom the individual interacts during walking activities
- backpacks
- food, water, tents and camping supplies as required for the duration of assessment
- clothing and footwear suitable for the conditions
- compasses
- rope for handlines
- Users Guide to the Australian Walking Track Grading System

- activity plans to include details of planned route
- walking route maps and guides
- organisational safety and emergency response procedures for walking activities.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations requirements for assessors, and:

- have a collective period of at least three years' experience as a bushwalking leader, guide or instructor, where they have applied the skills and knowledge covered in this unit of competency; the three years' experience can incorporate full and or part time experience.

## **Links**

Companion Volume Implementation Guides -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>