



Australian Government

SISOBWG004 Cross rivers during bushwalks

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to select suitable locations and methods to cross rivers during bushwalking activities. It requires the ability to use a range of river crossing methods in flat and moving water up to grade 2.

This unit applies to any type of organisation that delivers outdoor recreation activities including commercial, not-for-profit and government organisations.

It applies to leaders, guides or instructors who use these skills when leading participants where crossing rivers is required.

No occupational licensing, certification or specific legislative requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Bushwalking

Unit Sector

Outdoor Recreation

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Prepare to cross river.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

- 1.1. Scout the river to identify features, hazards and obstacles.
- 1.2. Assess risk and select a safe and suitable crossing point.
- 1.3. Evaluate conditions and select suitable method to cross river.
- 1.4. Confirm organisational safety and emergency response procedures to ensure compliance during activities.

2. Cross rivers using techniques appropriate to conditions.
- 1.5. Waterproof contents of back pack.
- 2.1. Set a ferry angle to negotiate currents and enter the river safely.
- 2.2. Use appropriate body position and defensive swimming techniques to negotiate moving water and river hazards.
- 2.3. Use appropriate body position and aggressive swimming techniques to negotiate moving water and to free self from river hazards.
- 2.4. Maintain ferry angle to balance swimming against current.
- 2.5. Wade across rivers at mid-thigh depth and negotiate swift currents, when present.
- 2.6. Use aids to cross rivers, as appropriate to conditions.
- 2.7. Utilise group techniques to cross rivers, as appropriate to conditions.
- 2.8. Use techniques to safely negotiate upstream and downstream currents and to exit the river safely.
- 2.9. Recognise unsafe crossing and retreat from river as required.
- 2.10. Evaluate a contingency plan if river is unable to be crossed.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

SKILLS	DESCRIPTION
Reading skills to:	interpret detailed and familiar organisational safety and emergency response procedures.
Oral communications skills to:	use clear and unambiguous verbal and non-verbal communications to make intent known to party members.
Numeracy skills to:	estimate speed of currents and depth of water.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guides -

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

Assessment Requirements for SISOBWG004 Cross rivers during bushwalks

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 river crossings, and collectively:
 - utilise defensive and aggressive swimming techniques
 - utilise techniques to wade across a river
 - utilise poles and a backpack as aids
 - participate in one group crossing using mutual support methods
- during each crossing, consistently follow safety procedures and safely and effectively negotiate river 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
- waterproofing and stowing techniques used for river crossings
- river grading systems, sufficient to understand strength of currents, direction of flow and the impact on selection of crossing point
- features of rivers and how these affect selection of crossing point:
 - eddy
 - current
 - tongue
 - waves
 - bank
 - rocks
- different ferry angles that can be chosen to suit features of the river
- locations generally suitable for crossing rivers:
 - narrow, straight part of the river
 - low banks
 - sections less than waist deep
- hazards associated with river crossings and techniques used to safely negotiate these:
 - cold water

- steep or slippery banks
- submerged logs, rocks and vegetation
- sections of dark, deep or cold water
- fast moving white water
- hazardous flora and fauna
- defensive swimming techniques and when to use these during river crossings:
 - floating passively on back facing downstream
 - riding with the river current
 - pointing feet downstream, toes out of water
 - using arms and legs to avoid serious contact with obstacles
- aggressive swimming techniques and when to use these during river crossings:
 - moving on to stomach
 - pointing head in direction of travel
 - stroking hard to move across the current
 - swimming freestyle across current
- aids used in river crossings and how to use these effectively:
 - swimming using pack as a float
 - poles
 - ropes, including methods used to secure
- methods for group crossings/mutual support and how to use these effectively:
 - linked arms
 - circle
 - pole
- typical situations requiring retreat from river crossing.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated on moving rivers, which can include up to grade 2 rivers, and which must feature the following:

- moving water
- fairly frequent but straightforward rapids
- rapids with regular medium sized waves, less than one metre
- low ledges or drops, easy eddies and gradual bends
- passages through rapids that are generally straightforward and can be seen from when standing on the bank.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- a group of participants with whom the individual interacts during group river crossings
- river crossing aids to include:
 - backpacks and waterproofing aids

- poles
- ropes
- organisational safety and emergency response procedures.

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

- first aid equipment
- communication equipment for emergency response.

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 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

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