



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

SISORAF403A Guide a raft on Grade 4 rapids

Release: 2

SISORAF403A Guide a raft on Grade 4 rapids

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to control a raft as a guide with a crew on grade 4 rapids according to the prescribed trip plan.

Application of the Unit

This unit applies to those working as rafting guides in a range of conditions on grade 4 rapids.

This unit applies to leaders working for 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

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.
1. Plan for a rafting activity.	1.1. Identify and plan <i>food and water requirements</i> according to <i>principles of nutrition</i> and <i>contextual issues</i>. 1.2. Confirm the chosen location or section of river for the trip is suitable according to participants' abilities, <i>aims and objectives, relevant legislation</i> and <i>organisational policies and procedures</i>. 1.3. Implement the trip <i>plan</i> as designed by the trip leader according to the participant's needs, relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures. 1.4. Choose a route or course that minimises environmental damage. 1.5. Access <i>relevant sources</i> to interpret <i>weather and environmental information</i> and determine activity plan. 1.6. Identify <i>hazards</i> and <i>obstacles</i> associated with the rafting trip and minimise <i>risks</i> to ensure personal safety of participants.
2. Select equipment.	2.1. Check and confirm participants are properly equipped for the trip. 2.2. Fit and adjust equipment according to manufacturer's specifications to ensure comfort and safety. 2.3. Assess raft for safety and suitability and check that it is inflated to the required pressure. 2.4. Select <i>safety and rescue equipment</i> according to the activity location. 2.5. Waterproof, pack and fasten equipment that is not required on hand to ensure that it is not lost, damaged or a hindrance and prepare raft for transportation if required.

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
3. Brief participants.	3.1. Check and confirm participants are properly equipped for the trip. 3.2. Communicate relevant information and safety procedures effectively. 3.3. Arrange seating positions that are appropriate to the size and abilities of the paddlers.
4. Control raft in grade 4 rapids.	4.1. Conduct a crew drill, informing participants of guide commands and strokes that will be used, and practice participants in the use of these strokes. 4.2. Apply strokes and paddling manoeuvres effectively to control the raft. 4.3. Communicate effectively with crew, other guides, trip leader and other river users.
5. Plan and run a route through a rapid.	5.1. Scout and assess sections of moving water to identify hydrological features, hazards and impediments. 5.2. Communicate the selected route to the crew. 5.3. Negotiate or avoid hazards using a combination of strokes, guide commands and manoeuvres. 5.4. Apply navigation skills to determine location and follow planned route or course during the activity.
6. Apply capsize and rescue procedures.	6.1. Maintain appropriate body position in the water to minimise injury or entrapment and apply defensive and aggressive swimming techniques. 6.2. Maintain a position upstream of the raft and recover paddles. 6.3. Manage capsize response of crew and equipment.
7. Complete post trip responsibilities.	7.1. Retrieve, inspect, repair and store equipment according to organisation policies and procedures. 7.2. Evaluate relevant aspects of the rafting activity trip and complete trip reports according to organisational policies and procedures. 7.3. Review own performance and identify potential areas of improvement for future rafting trips

Required Skills and Knowledge

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

Required skills

- planning and organising skills to select and allocate rafting equipment according to the trip plan
- teamwork skills to:
- paddle and maintain control of the raft
- assist each other in capsize and rescue procedures
- communication skills to:
- interact with other participants to negotiate hazards, paddling technique, route or course
- respond to instructions and directions from crew and other rafts
- problem-solving skills to:
- read river direction and speed of flow, currents, eddies and other hydrological features
- paddle in different river conditions
- apply a range of strokes and paddling manoeuvres to control the raft and negotiate hazards
- apply defensive and aggressive swimming to remove self and or others from danger
- first aid and emergency response skills appropriate to the location to enable initial response to emergencies and personal health care
- apply complex rescue and recover techniques to minimise damage to equipment and prevent injury to personnel.

Required knowledge

- legislation and organisational policies and procedures to enable safe conduct of all rafting activities
- equipment and raft types, characteristics and safety features, the advantages and disadvantages, and its care and maintenance to enable appropriate selection and use
- selection and use of Personal Flotation Devices and rescue equipment, such as throw bags, to ensure safety of self and raft crew
- clothing requirements for rafting such as wet weather gear to maintain warmth and sun protection to minimise sunburn and heat stroke
- stroke, directing and signalling techniques to control and manoeuvre the raft on grade 4 rapids
- principles of nutrition to maintain health during the rafting activity
- weather and environmental information to identify forecast conditions and their effect on the activity
- hydrology and river features including currents, banks, change in gradient and volume, and how these might impact on the rafting experience
- international river grading system to understand conditions and appropriateness of

the river to the level of participants

- knots as used to secure raft and perform rescues
- defensive and aggressive swimming techniques to swim out of trouble
- emergency and rescue procedures appropriate for the raft and location to ensure risk minimisation to self and group
- broad range of rescue and recovery techniques.

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:

- executes trip plan, including confident delivery of safety briefing and crew drill
- applies knowledge of rivers and hydrology by effectively completing a sequence of paddling manoeuvres to negotiate multiple river features in a rapid on multiple occasion. negotiate multiple rapids and hazards using efficient strokes, clear and confident commands on fast currents and applies capsizing techniques and rescue procedures.
- evaluates and reflects on own rafting performance to identify strengths, weaknesses and areas that need improvement
- monitors and maintains the safety of clients and raft equipment and applies effective contingency management to deal with problems and issues that arise during the activity.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Assessment must ensure participation as a guide in rafting activities on grade 4 rapids that are of sufficient breadth and duration to demonstrate competency and consistency of performance.

Assessment must also ensure access to:

- suitable inland rivers with Grade 4 rapids
- resources and information to plan and prepare for the rafting activity
- suitable crew
- a suitable and safe method of transport, if required to drive raft to and from activity location
- rafting, navigation, safety, rescue and communication equipment.

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 stroke techniques used to control and manoeuvre the raft through grade 4 rapids

- observation of safe participation and demonstration of rafting skills to move in and out of eddies and travel in different directions
- third-party reports from a supervisor detailing performance.

Holistic assessment with other units relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role is recommended, for example:

- SISOWWR404A Perform complex white water rescues and recoveries.

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.

Contextual issues may include:

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

Aims and objectives may include:

- self improvement
- social
- fitness targets
- adventure and recreation
- outdoor education
- wilderness therapy.

Relevant legislation may include:

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

Organisational policies and procedures may include:

- occupational health and safety
- use and maintenance of equipment
- communication protocols
- code of ethics.

Plan may include:

- aims and objectives
- date, time and duration
- location, equipment and resources
- safety and emergency requirements
- river levels and section.

Relevant sources may include:

- Bureau of Meteorology
- media

Weather and environmental information may include:

- land managers or agencies
- coastal patrol or coastguard
- volunteer marine rescue
- local knowledge.
- satellite images
- daily and weekly forecasts
- maximum and minimum temperatures
- event warnings
- river levels
- synoptic charts
- high and low tide predictions.

Hazards may include:

- temperature extremes
- slippery or unstable terrain
- dangerous animals and insects
- stinging trees and nettles
- dense vegetation
- group management hazards slippery or unstable shore
- poor posture, poor technique
- poor carrying techniques
- poor carrying techniques
- loose or insecure craft when being transported
- other craft.

Obstacles may include:

- rocks
- strainer
- rocks
- stoppers or holes
- waterfalls
- sieves
- other crafts
- change in river conditions.

Risks may include:

- hypothermia
- heat exhaustion
- injuries
- exhaustion
- lost party or party member
- equipment and course failure.

Equipment may include:

- rafting equipment
- navigation equipment
- safety and rescue equipment
- communication equipment.

- Safety and rescue equipment*** may include:
- pumps
 - bailers
 - repair kits
 - rescue rope
 - karabiners
 - Prusik loops
 - pulleys
 - tape slings
 - throw bags
 - knife
 - flip line
 - whistle.
- Safety procedures*** may include:
- what happens when participants fall out of the raft
 - holding onto T grip
 - information on throw bags
 - instruction when told to "hold on"
 - getting back into raft
 - selecting safest line through rapids
 - seating position to maximise raft stability
 - managing safe portages and river running
 - conducting raft repairs.
- Guide commands*** may include:
- forward paddle
 - back paddle
 - left and right turn
 - over left and right
 - hold on
 - high side
 - on the job
 - stop
- Strokes*** may include:
- forward
 - backwards
 - draws
 - sweeps
 - prys turns.
- Paddling manoeuvres*** may include:
- forward and reverse ferry glides
 - breaking in and out of eddies
 - eddy hopping
 - weight shifting.
- Hydrological features*** may include:
- rapid
 - pool

- eddy
- eddy line
- current
- stoppers or holes (smiling and frowning)
- weir stoppers
- boils
- waves
- sieves
- undercuts
- strainers
- downstream V
- upstream V
- waterfalls
- pour overs.
- defensive swimming:
 - floating passively on back, looking downstream
 - riding with the river current
 - pointing feet downstream, toes out of the water
 - using legs to fend off obstacles
- aggressive swimming:
 - swimming freestyle on stomach
 - stroking hard to move across the current.

Defensive and aggressive swimming techniques may include:

Relevant aspects may include:

- objectives
- planning process
- activity site
- weather
- equipment selection
- clothing selection
- food selection
- instructional content
- instructional technique
- assessment technique
- group feedback
- directing techniques
- rescue techniques employed.

Unit Sector(s)

Outdoor Recreation

Competency Field

Rafting