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Kia ora koutou,

Driving around a corner on the road to the Lewis Pass, I was confronted by a scene so far out of the ordinary, my brain did not have time to register what was happening until it was over. There were two cars in front of me, but one didn't look right. The instinct part of my brain kicked in and my hands turned the steering wheel, heading straight for the ditch. I heard a scream of a horn and saw a flash. One of the cars whipped through the gap I'd just made, its slipstream rocking my vehicle. As I drove on, my brain replayed the incident. What I saw was a car passing another, and it had been on my side of the road directly in front of me. I realised the difference between having a good day and disaster can be measured in less than a second. If I had been a second faster, I would not be here writing this.

Be careful out there everyone. This incident was a good reminder that our workplaces are so much safer than the roads.

Kia pai tō rā

Kieran Mckay

Outdoor Programme Manager

Recreation Aotearoa

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## Health and Safety Reminders

This year adventure activity operators registered with WorkSafe will need to provide evidence at either annual surveillance or at recertification that they have transitioned, their safety management system, their policies and procedures to align with the amended Regulations and Scheme.

- The Health and Safety (Adventure Activity) Amended Regulations 2024

- The Safety Management System Requirements for adventure activity operators v2 (The safety audit [standard](#))

Make yourself aware of the excellent documents available on the WorkSafe website and be proactive in ensuring you can evidence the adoption to your safety audit provider.

### [Changes to the Adventure Activities regime – what they mean for you](#)

Improvements have been made to the start of any audit process. The Operator Profile and registration process will have a greater attention to detail. As such, a longer timescale is required and stated by WorkSafe to allow for their diligence processes to take place. (Regulation 6a and 6b.)

### [Health and Safety at Work \(Adventure Activities\) Amendment Regulations 2023](#)

Safety auditors will be assessing this new documentation evidence via Surveillance or at Recertification through this year. There will be an expectation in time for this. Operators are reminded to factor this into their budgeting and planning. As ever be audit-ready to keep the process as nimble as it can be. Seek advice from WorkSafe as the stewards of the standards and the scheme.

### [As the Scheme matures, there's benefit in taking stock, a refresh to identify and reconfirm any assumptions or past text.](#)

The Scheme must evolve and reflect the changes in what 'good' looks like. There is, as with any Scheme, slip and creep and key staff changes to what has gone before.

A good time to confirm all the activities you deliver are in or out of the regulations.

### [Apply for adventure activity operator registration](#)

Dave Watkinson

Pou: Tohu, Whakamana Haumarū | Manager, Safety Certification and Accreditation

[Qualworx](#)

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## TIA Upcoming Webinar: Know Your Obligations

Join us for an insightful webinar on Thursday 21 March 2pm-3pm as we delve into the implications of the Whakaari White Island judgment and its ramifications on the New Zealand tourism industry.

Joseph Harrop, Senior Associate at [Lane Neave](#), will share his advice on your legal obligations following the new amendments to the [Adventure Activities Regulations](#), and you'll have an opportunity to have your questions answered.

Register below to ensure you're up to speed with the upcoming regulation changes that will come into play on 1 April.

[Register here](#)

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# Regional Outdoor Hui - Wanaka

We're kicking off our first Regional Outdoors Hui for 2024 in Wanaka. This free event is open to anyone associated with the outdoors.

The theme is: "Let's listen to our rangatahi."

Join Recreation Aotearoa, Tourism Industry Aotearoa, along with EONZ, NZOIA, Skills Active, MSC, and WorkSafe. Come along, listen to the speakers, and catch up with friends and colleagues.

Lunch, snacks, tea and coffee will be supplied, along with some after match drinks. Please bring some koha to help cover these refreshments.

[Register here](#)

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## Update on Inspector Assessment Visits

You may remember from the September newsletter, that SupportAdventure asked WorkSafe for more information about the inspector assessment visits that have become more visible among adventure activity operators in the last couple of years. Inspectors usually contact a business to pre-arrange these visits, but it's also not unusual for some visits to be un-announced.

WorkSafe's inspectorate provided these bullet points, giving more context for their visits.

Inspector assessments are a routine part of WorkSafe's mahi:

- Each year our health and safety inspectors conduct about 12,500 inspections (assessments).
  - These are proactive, planned visits and are not usually triggered by a report of serious harm or a health and safety complaint.
  - There's more information in our [Inspection policy | WorkSafe](#)
- Most visits are planned in high-risk areas such as – Agriculture, Forestry, Construction & Manufacturing, and Adventure Activities.
- Inspectors follow the process of 3E's – Engage, Educate and Enforce as explained in the [Inspection policy | WorkSafe](#)

The aims of an inspection/assessment are to ensure:

- The health and safety of workers while at work in a business or undertaking.
- The health and safety of workers whose activities in carrying out work are influenced or directed by the PCBU while carrying out work.
- The health and safety of others is not put at risk while carrying out work.
- The result or end product of the work does not pose a risk to the health and safety of others.

For businesses who want to take the opportunity to have an independent look at a business' health and safety practices, there is SafePlus.

## [What is SafePlus?](#)

SafePlus:

- Is a voluntary, health and safety performance toolkit for businesses.
  - Supports continuous improvement in health and safety.
  - Includes an online self-assessment tool (free).
  - Can include an onsite assessment and advisory service (negotiated fee).
  - Provides resources and guidance.
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## What should my 2024 SMS review look like?

1 April 2024 will see a shift from the current Safety Audit Standard for Adventure Activities 2017 to the [new Safety Management System Requirements for Adventure Activity Operators 2023](#).

It's worth noting that the title has been updated to make it clear that this isn't a document for auditors; it's a resource for Adventure Activity Operators to understand what's required of them. So, the first thing you should do is get familiar with this document, and make sure your SMS is updated wherever necessary. Please remember, The Adventure Activities Amendment Regulations come into effect on 1 April. You must comply with legislation when it comes into effect. Your audit date is irrelevant.

If you have the time and resources, a big review of the whole new Standard against your SMS is fine but if that's too much to bite off at once, just do it section by section so that, by 1 April, you can be confident that you understand your operation's responsibilities and your SMS aligns with the new requirements.

Mike Pennefather  
AdventureMark.

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## Good Practice

A decade in outdoor recreation is a long time; long enough for a serious safety clean up that's worth a serious celebration.

A decade ago, the Adventure Activities Regulations (AAR) upset many people. Having spent a small fortune getting qualified, some felt their safety practices were just fine. Often, they were right. However, safety culture in the sector varied considerably. Like many regulations, the good and not so good were lumped together.

Since then, safety auditors have been privileged to see four audit cycles. We now find most providers easily comply with the Safety Audit Standard. The kicker is that it expects providers to work to good practice. And generally, they do.

Stu Allan of ROSA shares important issues to be mindful of when it comes to Good Practice. Click below for more.

[Read more](#)

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## General Updates

Word on the street is the principals who will be running the review are currently going through contract negotiations. Hopefully we will see a start soon.

It is time to ensure that you're registered on the WorkSafe register as an Adventure Activity provider. If you know of anyone unregistered and operating, please remind them to get registered. (And to also sign up to receive these newsletters!)

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## A new government, but not likely a new direction for the Adventure Activity sector?

As we kick off a new year, and amidst a busy summer season for Adventure Activity Operators, we can take a moment to read the tea leaves with regard to the newly formed Coalition Government.

Ministers relevant to the Adventure Activity Sector are:

- Hon Brooke van Velden - Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
- Hon Chris Bishop - Minister for Sport and Recreation
- Hon Matt Doocey - Minister for Tourism and Hospitality
- Hon Penny Simmonds - Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills
- Hon Tama Potaka - Minister of Conservation

Looking at the policy manifestos of the three parties in coalition, there's not a great deal of policy focused on workplace safety, and certainly nothing specifically pertaining to the Adventure Activity Sector or the regime by which it is regulated. ACT has an agenda around 'cutting red tape' and reducing unnecessary regulation, but it would be surprising if the Adventure Activity Regulations were within scope. Similarly, a read of the two coalition agreements (National and Act, National and New Zealand First) reveals nothing that would indicate any particular attention will be paid to the Adventure Activity Sector in this term of parliament.

[Read more](#)

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