Tasmanian Adventure Activity Standard
Rock Climbing and Abseiling
Advice for Organisations, Guides and Leaders
IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this publication has been gathered through widespread industry consultation. Nevertheless, the Tasmanian Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) are general in nature and should not be relied upon to meet individual or specific requirements. They are recommendations for voluntary application to adventure activity providers.

The AAS will not, and are not, intended to cover each and every circumstance of an adventure activity. Nor can they, when adhered to, entirely eliminate the risk or possibility of loss or injury. Consequently, they should be used as a guide only. Whenever using the information contained in this AAS, providers should carefully evaluate the specific requirements of the intended activity and the persons participating in it and act accordingly. If necessary, providers should obtain advice from suitably experienced and qualified professionals.

This AAS and the information it contains are made available on the express condition that the Crown in Right of Tasmania, its officers, employees and agents, and the consultants and advisors who have assisted in compiling and drafting it, are not rendering professional advice to any person or organisation and make no warranties with respect thereto, and to the maximum extent permitted by law disclaim all liability for loss or injury however arising, including liability for negligence, from the use of or reliance upon this AAS.

Tasmanian Adventure Activity Standard – Rock Climbing and Abseiling
Written by the Adventure Activity Standard Working Party
Edited by Tony McKenny for Sport and Recreation Tasmania
Endorsed by Tasmania’s outdoor recreation and adventure tourism sectors
Supported by the Tasmanian Government
PREFACE

Anyone conducting an outdoor adventure activity for a group of dependant participants has a duty-of-care to those participants for the safe conduct of the activity. This Adventure Activity Standard (AAS) has been developed to assist organisations, trip/group leaders and guides to plan and safely undertake outdoor adventure activities with dependant participants (see Definitions 5.1).

It has been developed in consultation with community leaders and commercial organisations, and reflects currently accepted practice for rock climbing and abseiling. Although primarily intended as guidelines for those working with dependant groups, whether commercial or not-for-profit, peer groups (friends or community club members for example) may also find some of the information useful for the planning and safe conduct of their activities.

Having suitable risk management strategies in place and ensuring the AAS are met should help minimise the likelihood of injury or loss. However, it is recommended that all providers obtain independent legal advice to ensure they understand their duty of care obligations under the law in Tasmania. In addition, providers, whether commercial or not-for-profit, should discuss their specific operations and requirements with their insurance broker or underwriter to ensure they have appropriate insurance cover.

Adventure activity standards for a range of activities, along with additional advice on access, communications, developing an operations manual, risk management and emergency planning, can be accessed on the Sport and Recreation Tasmania website at www.development.tas.gov.au/sportrec/

Note: Commercial operators wishing to conduct tourism-based operations in areas managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), Crown Land Services, Forestry Tasmania or the Wellington Park Management Trust are required to have a Commercial Visitor Services (CVS) licence (see section 6.4 for full details).

All operators, whether commercial or not-for-profit, must adhere to the Department of Education Outdoor Education Guidelines when working with Tasmanian state schools and colleges. For a copy of these guidelines, please visit the Department of Education’s website at www.education.tas.gov.au/outdoor
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ADVENTURE ACTIVITY STANDARDS

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ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Rock climbing is the process of ascending natural cliffs. This AAS applies to any organised group climbing trip involving dependant participants, whether commercial or not. It is important that the individual circumstances of each location and route be taken into account. It should also be noted that this AAS is written mainly for novice to intermediate dependant groups (not peer group activities), participating on single pitch or basic multi-pitch climbs on natural surfaces only. A separate AAS is available for climbing on artificial climbing structures.

Rock climbing, as an activity, has diversified into several specialist areas, each of which has particular leadership and equipment requirements.

Bouldering

Bouldering may take place on natural rock and/or artificial structures. It involves rock climbing, usually to a maximum eye-level height of 2.4 metres above the ground, where adequate safety can be implemented by ‘spotting’ (see Definitions, section 5.1) rather than requiring additional systems of harnesses, belays or ropes. Bouldering serves many purposes, including ‘warm-ups, as an introduction to climbing techniques and as part of advanced skills training. It may be competitive or non-competitive.

Artificial Climbing Structures

Sport (Lead) Climbing/ Wall Climbing /Bouldering. These areas are covered in Tasmanian AAS Indoor and Artificial Climbing Structures.

Top Rope Climbing

‘Top rope climbing’ normally takes place on small cliffs (up to approximately 50 metres), where the participants can climb with a belay (safety) rope from above.

Multi Pitch/Lead Climbing

Lead climbing is when climbers ascend cliffs of any size without a top belay, using more advanced skills and techniques.

Abseiling

Abseiling (also known as rappelling) involves descending vertical (or near vertical) features, both natural and artificial (such as portable walls, fixed towers and bridges) using ropes and descending (friction) devices.

This AAS is directed at the independent activity of abseiling, although clearly it does have relevance to the abseiling conducted by a rock climber descending after a climb.

In the majority of situations, abseiling involves descending backwards. Some groups undertake forward-facing (Geneva or rundown) descents and where this is the case, the leader should consider the added risks. It should also be noted that standard harnesses are NOT designed to have an attachment on the back, therefore specialist equipment is required for forward-facing descents.
1 PLANNING

An activity plan is developed by the leader/organiser and outlines important information on how the program is to be conducted. Although land managers may not require all of the information it contains, an activity plan should be available if requested.

1.1 Site Selection and Access

- Site Selection

Site and route selection are the most important considerations when developing an activity plan. Organisations and leaders should consider no less than the following in their planning:

  - leader/guide to participant ratios
  - objectives of the activity (desired outcomes)
  - weather conditions
  - group size
  - group age, skill/experience levels, including fitness
  - rock type and stability (granite, sandstone and so on)
  - cliff characteristics (grade, difficulty and height)
  - ability of the site to withstand visitation, with minimal impact
  - access to and remoteness of the cliff
  - cliff access (top, bottom and descent routes)
  - equipment requirements
  - land manager’s requirements (restrictions, permits, booking requirements and so on)
  - participants’ ability to competently and effectively spot for low-level bouldering
  - an area where observation may occur, without any risk of injury
  - good communication and how it can be used over the whole area (see the supplementary folder - Communications)
  - vehicle access to the cliff area in the case of an emergency.

When selecting sites, it is essential that the leader and/or guide should consider if:

  - they have the required competency to conduct the activity, effectively manage incidents and satisfy the planned objectives at the site selected
  - they are familiar enough with the area they intend to use and any inherent dangers or safety issues (see section 1.4 below).

- General access restrictions

Many rock climbing and abseiling venues have access restrictions brought about by overuse, inappropriate use or fear of litigation in the event of an accident.

Leaders should familiarise themselves with the restrictions, regulations or licensing requirements that cover any area which they intend to use. Land owners and land
management agencies may, for example, limit or prohibit certain additional activities, such as camping or the lighting of fires. Wherever necessary, permission should be sought from the relevant land owner or management agency before undertaking an activity.

For more detailed information see the supplementary folder – Access.

For information on Phytophthora infections in areas to be visited (see section 4), please visit the Department of Primary Industry and Water’s website at [www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/ThemeNodes/EGIL-53Y2ZC?open](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/ThemeNodes/EGIL-53Y2ZC?open)

- **Access to Crown Land and World Heritage Areas**

The Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment (DTAE), through the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) manage all crown land and world heritage areas. State forests and forest reserves are managed by Forestry Tasmania.

Applications to use all crown land, world heritage areas, forestry lands and the Wellington Park Management Trust areas for commercial purposes should be made through the Commercial Visitors Service (see section 6). Contact the PWS CVS section on (03) 6233 3636 or visit [www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)

- **Access Restrictions**

Access restrictions exist (as at March 2007) at:

- Lowdina, Richmond (private land owner)
- Waterworks Quarry, Hobart (Hobart City Council)
- Proctors Road Quarry, Hobart (University of Tasmania)
- Clifton, Clifton Beach (private land owner)
- Brighton (Bouldering)
- White Water Wall. Restrictions on school groups camping are in place in Freycinet National Park (see the supplementary folder – Access). The area is restricted to climbing groups only, and to one group at a time. There is a maximum of 12 persons, with a minimum of two adults and bookings are essential. Contact the local parks Ranger (see supplementary folder – Access, for more information).

### 1.2 Weather Forecasts

Planning should include up-to-date weather and fire information and tide/sea conditions (when coastal climbing).

Apart from weather information generally available through the media (newspapers, radio and television), information is also available on the Bureau of Meteorology website at [www.bom.gov.au/weather/tas/](http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/tas/)

Additional information is available from:

- Tasmanian State, Cities and Districts Forecast Service 1900 955 364
- Tasmanian Boating Weather Service 1900 969 940
- Tasmanian Coastal, Land Weather and Flood Warnings 1300 659 216
1.3 Pre-activity Documentation

Documentation is often seen as a chore and not a minimum requirement. There are, however, certain details that a leader and/or organisation should be aware of to maximise safety. The following is generally agreed to be the basic documentation for a climbing session:

- an emergency plan (including details set out in section 1.5)
- names, addresses, medical information* and emergency contact details for all participants, leaders and guides
- necessary permits/licences including compliance with the CVS requirements for commercial organisations and/or Park’s permits [Note: an Ancillary Certificate to Drive a Public Passenger Vehicle may be required if transporting participants (see www.transport.tas.gov.au/home)].
- planned start and finish times and a program outline
- participants should read and sign a disclosure of the activity risks and release from liability prior to the activity. Note: This must be supported by a verbal briefing. Participants under the age of 18 should have the signature of a parent/guardian (see Waivers – section 5.1)

On any climbing activity, all documentation should be readily accessible to the leader. On multi-day or remote climbing activities, copies should be left with a non-participating contact.

* Throughout the activity, the leader should take reasonable steps to account for any specific medical requirements and treatment plans documented by participants.

Medical information relates to any condition likely to affect the participant’s performance. For example, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, fainting/dizziness, specific allergic reactions, blood conditions that may affect bleeding/blood clotting, conditions affecting balance, recent or long-standing injuries (for example, back, knee and ankle), disability or other relevant medical conditions that the supervisor should be aware of (for example, pregnancy, repetitive strain injury [RSI] and any relevant medication).

1.4 Risk Assessment and Management

Risk management is defined by Standards Australia as ‘…a process consisting of well-defined steps which, taken in sequence, support better decision-making by contributing a greater insight into risks and their impacts.’ [AS/NZ Standard AS/NZS 4360:2004, Risk Management (2004)]

A systematic assessment of all foreseeable risks should be made, and strategies should be considered as to how to manage, avoid or minimise these risks.

The process should identify all site-specific hazards and others such as access problems, loose rock, equipment failure and potential injuries such as hair/clothing trapped in abseil devices.

Some organisations may have established risk management guidelines that cover issues such as standards for equipment and transport and should be referred to. It may also be a requirement that this is formally documented (see the supplementary folder – Developing an Operations Manual).

For further information, including planning proformas, please see the supplementary folder – Risk management, and section 7, appendix 2.
1.5 Emergency Planning

Even with appropriate policies and procedures, accidents and emergencies can still occur. They are usually sudden and unexpected, significantly affect groups and individuals and require an immediate and planned response to contain the situation.

Prior emergency planning helps an organisation to manage an emergency more successfully. It also minimises long-term effects on individuals and organisations and enhances the ability to resume normal functioning. Developing clear emergency procedures and networks prior to the event is an important aspect of this planning.

The emergency plan is designed to help manage foreseeable incidents that have been identified in the risk assessment and any other emergencies that may occur.

Trip leader(s) and a non-participating contact should be aware of the emergency plan.

Whilst an organisation may have a general emergency management plan, there should be a specific emergency strategy for each activity/session, which should detail the:

- emergency access and escape routes where possible
- emergency contact details for key organisations (land manager and the police) and how they are best contacted (via mobile phone, satellite phone or radio)
- activity program, including planned start and finish times of the session
- the emergency ‘trigger’-time for the non-participating contact to inform emergency services that the group has failed to return/check-in from a trip
- specific communication equipment being carried by the group [for example, phone, radio or Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)]
- adopted strategies specific to the areas being visited. The trip leader should communicate with the relevant non-participating contact at designated time/s. Upon failure to do so, the non-participating contact should activate the Plan, (for example, notify the police or any other party, as detailed in the plan).

In the event of serious or fatal incidents, the police are responsible for the management of the incident and all other parties (contact persons) are under the direction of the police. Only the police may notify parents and next-of-kin of any fatalities.

For further information, please see the supplementary folder – Emergency Strategies, and section 7, appendix 2.

1.6 Restrictions to Participation

Operational restrictions to an activity may include the weather, as well as restrictions advised by the land manager or others because of drought, fire, seasonal closure of sites and bird nesting times.

Individual restrictions should apply to participants deemed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including prescription drugs that may affect performance, as well as to participants who are unable or unwilling to follow instructions.

1.7 Bouldering

There are some specific issues that relate to the organisation of bouldering. The following should be considered:

- areas with potentially hazardous landing zones (impact zones) should not be used
the ground surface should be reasonably hazard-free to minimise injury resulting from a fall

where the above is not possible, as in most natural environments, specialist bouldering mats are strongly recommended [participants should be ‘spotted’ (see Definitions 5.2) and appropriate spotting techniques should be demonstrated and practised before participation]

bouldering should not be conducted above two metres eye-height from the ground unless significant additional measures are undertaken to control a fall

constant supervision by a competent person should be provided, with participants always in visual contact.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ACTIVITY LEADER/ASSISTANT

This section includes all aspects of the activity plan that involve both the trip leader and the guide, including the specific competency required for various types of climbing (single pitch, multi pitch and so on). It also covers the basic requirements such as first aid and ratios needed for leading and supporting. For definitions of activity leaders, guides and assistants, please see section 5.

2.1 Qualifications/Competencies

2.1.1 Training and Accreditation

Several options are available through community organisations (for example, Tasmanian Climbing Instructors Association), employers, TAFE colleges, universities and other registered training organisations (RTOs) for training rock climbing guides and instructors. For this reason, any climbing guide or trip leader should be confident he or she has skills at least equivalent to those described in the relevant units and levels from the National Outdoor Recreation Training Package (NORTP).

A statement of attainment for these units is not compulsory. However, the inclusion of this section is intended to provide a suitable benchmark describing the skills that a leader should have, as described within the NORTP (see section 7.1, appendix 1 for details of specific selected units).

Where relevant, consideration should also be given to the skills necessary for tourism guiding (see the Drysdale Institute’s Tourism Training Package – Guiding THT02), particularly where an interpretive program is offered, with catering (see section 7, appendix 3 for further details).

All leaders/instructors should operate within their qualifications.

Note: Leaders/Guides working with Tasmanian state school or college groups must be registered teachers, or have a registered teacher present during the activity. A police check may also be required of all staff working with such groups.

2.1.2 Tasmanian Qualification Recommendations

In Tasmania, the qualifications offered by the Tasmanian Climbing Instructors Association (TCIA) are equivalent to the levels of required competency detailed in appendix 1 and form the basis of the industry benchmark.

At least one of the following is a recommended qualification for activity leaders:
Bouldering
- TCIA Top Rope/Abseiling Instructor or Multi-Pitch Guide
- Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Outdoor Recreation Certificate IV, with relevant rock climbing units
- registered leader under the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS)
- equivalent interstate or national qualifications.

Top Rope Climbing
- TCIA Top Rope/Abseiling Instructor or Multi-Pitch Guide
- AQF Outdoor Recreation Certificate IV, with relevant specialisations in rock climbing on natural surfaces
- registered leader under the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS)
- equivalent interstate or national qualifications.

Multi Pitch/Lead Climbing
- TCIA Multi Pitch Guide
- AQF Outdoor Recreation Certificate IV, with specialisations in rock climbing on natural surfaces
- registered leader under the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS)
- equivalent interstate or national qualifications.

Abseiling
- TCIA Basic Abseiling Instructor, TCIA Top Rope/Abseiling Instructor or Multi-Pitch Guide
- AQF Outdoor Recreation Certificate IV, with specialisations in rock climbing/abseiling
- registered leader under the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS)
- equivalent interstate or national qualifications.

2.1.3 Trainee Guides/Assisting Leaders
Trainee guides/assisting leaders should have the relevant climbing experience and group management skills (equivalent to the AQF Outdoor Recreation Certificate III, with specialisations in rock climbing/abseiling) necessary to provide assistance to the leader of the program and should be able to manage any incident in the event of the injury, should the leader become incapacitated.

2.2 First-Aid

2.2.1 Qualifications
At least one leader or guide should hold a current level-two first aid certificate, which is now measured by the NORTP unit SRXFAD001A from the Sport and Recreation Package or HLTFA1A from the Health and Fitness Package.
A leader with more comprehensive training and a more complex first-aid kit is recommended for activities lasting longer than one day and/or in more remote areas (for
example, a remote area first-aid qualification or greater) (see section 7, appendix 2 for further information on the relevant NORTP units).

Participants should be made aware of whom the qualified first-aid officer is in case of an accident or emergency. Peer groups may also have to manage incidents likely to require first-aid. If there is no-one in the group with a current recognised first-aid qualification, it is advisable that participants consider other measures to manage any injury or illness.

2.2.2 First-Aid Kits

A first-aid kit appropriate to the level of first-aid training should be easily accessible, along with the emergency/group documentation.

2.3 Responsibilities of Activity Personnel

2.3.1 Program Manager/Organiser

The role of the manager/organiser is to develop the overall context of the activity or tour. In particular he or she might be involved in the planning of a specific activity, including the choice of venue, the time of program, staffing, emergency management and communication protocols (including designation of the emergency contact).

2.3.2 Activity Leader

Most competency qualifications include reference to the generic responsibilities of activity leaders and their assistants towards their clients. Individual tasks may be delegated but the responsibility remains with the activity leader.

Whenever commencing any climbing or abseiling activity, it is the activity leader’s responsibility to ensure that the level of knowledge, ability, skills and equipment of each participant is appropriate for the level of difficulty and complexity of the activity. The leader must also obtain agreement from all participants that he/she, as the leader, has the role of leading the group.

The activity leader is responsible for at least the following:

- completing the activity plan
- confirming that the group experience/capabilities match the activity to be undertaken
- managing hazards
- ensuring that the group has access to safe drinking water
- checking the suitability, condition and use of all equipment prior to use and upon return
- ensuring, to the best of the leader’s ability, that group members are not faced with situations that are beyond their capabilities
- ensuring a full brief is clearly provided by all leaders and understood by participants (see section 2.4)
- being aware of and complying with the land manager’s requirements, including minimal impact strategies
- ensuring that any incidents are documented and reported
- checking the first-aid kit and communication equipment prior to activity
designating appropriate responsibility to assistant guides

- appointing appropriate external contacts for emergency response
- notifying external contacts of safe return/completion
- collecting waiver or release forms signed by all participants, if relevant (see sections 1.3 and 5.1).

2.3.3 Assistant Leader

Any person acting as an assistant leader/assistant instructor/assistant guide/trainee guide instructor should be able to provide support and assistance to the activity leader according to the activity plan and manage any incident or emergency according to the emergency strategy should the leader become injured or incapacitated.

2.4 Communication and Authority

2.4.1 Communications

For all outdoor activities involving group participation, all participants, instructors and activity leaders should use agreed and understood communication (briefing, calls, authority, directions and so on). It is essential that this system is devised before the activity and agreed on as a component of the pre-activity briefing.

2.4.2 Briefings

The briefing of participants before an activity by the leader/instructor will obviously vary in content depending on the activity and venue, but in general should provide a comprehensive introduction to the program, activities and personnel. More specifically it might include:

- an introduction of activity leader, guides and objectives
- an explanation of the strategies for conservation, including protecting flora and fauna, toilet arrangements and rubbish removal
- an overview of the nature of the activity, inherent risks, and communication requirements
- an explanation of the correct use and fit of equipment
- an explanation of group management throughout the activity, including important logistical issues, such as the duration of sessions, breaks, safe ways up and down and toilet arrangements
- an explanation of what is expected of participants and their personal responsibilities as participants
- an explanation of how the climbing session will be managed (procedures and calls)
- an opportunity for participants to voice any concerns about their capabilities (in private, if possible)
- an explanation of the required documentation, including waivers or releases.

Participants should be informed of the emergency strategy that is specific to each organisation, activity, location and group. Consideration should be given to the capacity of non-English speakers to understand briefings and whether written briefing sheets in other languages are required.
2.5 Ratios of Activity Leader and Assistant(s) to Participants

When determining the appropriate supervision ratio, a supervisor may be influenced by a number of variables. These include the site and route (grade, height, complexity and environmental sensitivity), the group (experience, competence, fitness and available equipment) and the experience of the leader/guide. There are clearly situations where the leader’s judgement will dictate the requirement for smaller numbers of participants per leader/guide. Land managers may also suggest ratios that differ from the AAS and if these are within the AAS (a smaller number), they should be regarded as minimum standards.

Regardless of these factors:

- if leading a group alone (one leader), the activity leader should ensure that at least one participant is aware of and understands the emergency strategy in the event that the leader becomes injured or incapacitated
- the leader in charge should remain at the site of the activity at all times during the activity session
- in all cases each rope/belayer should be in close proximity (these ratios relate to one climber and a belayer, as well as a back-up belayer, per rope/belay system)
- all waiting participants should be in a designated safe area and supervised by a responsible adult. Adult participants may be expected to be responsible for themselves in these circumstances.

Groups greater than eight in number and up to a maximum of 12 participants, would normally have two instructor-guides. Although one may be unqualified (see section 2.1.2 above), they should both be skilled and experienced in the activity. Smaller adult groups of less than eight may be supervised by one qualified instructor.

Another thing that is factored into instructor/client ratios is the number of active ropes at one time. During the initial phase, it is advised that there be one active rope per instructor. More experienced groups could increase this rope/instructor ratio depending on variables such as age, experience of clients, proximity of active ropes, belaying techniques and devices used.

Note: The Department of Education and the Camping Association of Tasmania have specific requirements regarding gender supervision for overnight camping with young people under 18 years of age. For further information, please visit www.education.tas.gov.au/outdoor/related/supervisions and/or contact the Camping Association of Tasmania on (03) 6230 8200 or (03) 6259 6158.

Leaders working with school or college groups should be aware that they will be required to have a good character check if the program involves overnight camping or is in a remote area.

For further details, please visit the Department of Education’s website at www.education.tas.gov.au/dept/employment/applying_for_a_job/employment_pre-requisites/goodcharacter

2.5.1 Bouldering

The maximum ratio of climbers to leaders should not exceed 12:1. Participants should be instructed in ‘spotting’ and work in teams of two or more, if necessary.
2.5.2 Top Rope Climbing

Groups greater than eight in number and up to a maximum of 12 participants, would normally have two instructor/guides. Although one may be unqualified (see section 2.1.2 above), they should both be skilled and experienced in the activity. Smaller adult groups of less than eight may be supervised by one qualified instructor.

Where the participants are belaying, it is generally recommended that a backup belayer be used for bottom and top belaying, with all but advanced groups.

If the belaying is being done at the top of the crag, one instructor should be supervising at the top of the crag and the other at the bottom.

2.5.3 Multi Pitch/Lead Climbing

The climber to leader ratios will be at the discretion of the qualified guide and be based on length of route, grade, size of stances and weather. The ratio should not exceed one instructor per three clients. Ratios of 1:2 and 1:1 provide a better quality of experience for the client and are recommended.

2.5.4 Single Pitch Abseiling/ Top Belay

Groups greater than eight in number and up to a maximum of 12 participants, would normally have two instructor/guides. Although one may be unqualified (see sections 2.1.2 and 2.1.3), they should both be skilled and experienced in the activity. Smaller adult groups of less than eight may be supervised by one qualified instructor.

Note: The present (2007) CVS client to guide ratio for abseiling is five clients for every one guide, with a maximum group size of 12.

Unless the aims of the session are for clients to belay, the belaying should be conducted by qualified instructors who must supervise and instruct at the top of the crag.

2.5.4 Single Pitch Abseiling / Bottom Belay

Groups of up to 12 participants should have a minimum of two leaders/guides present. There should be one qualified instructor and another skilled and experienced guide present at all times during the activity. One should be based at the top of the crag and the other at the bottom.

2.6 Group Size

For the safety of both the group and the environment, the maximum group size for a climbing trip, involving a dependent group, at one site should be 15 (including leader/guides, participants and support), although some land managers may require a smaller group size than this.

Larger groups should be split and should not use the same climb, safe area or belay station while another group is operating.

It may be possible to arrange, with the relevant land manager, for a larger group size to be at a single site. In such cases, all aspects of supervision should remain as stated in this AAS and additional consideration must be given to environmental impact, group management and the emergency strategy.
2.7 Alcohol and Smoking

2.7.1 Alcohol

The consumption of alcohol by leaders and other assisting leaders/guides when on duty could result in a charge of negligence or jeopardise their rights under the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Act 2004* if an accident or mishap should occur.

2.7.2 Smoking

Smoking should not be permitted while actively involved in any climbing activities or in proximity to any climbing equipment. Appropriate butt storage should be provided, with all butts being removed from the areas and disposed of correctly by the smoker or leader.

In Tasmania, it is illegal for a person under the age of 18 years to smoke.

2.8 UV (Sun) Protection

Leaders/instructors must ensure that they take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the likelihood of staff and participants sustaining health damage due to exposure to the sun. This may include encouraging the wearing of suitable clothing, using sunscreen or taking breaks in the shade.
3 EQUIPMENT

3.1 Equipment

3.1.1 General Issues

All rock climbing and abseiling gear, such as ropes, harnesses, helmets and harnesses, and belay devices should be specifically designed for rock climbing and/or abseiling and should meet the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA) standards or the European Committee for Standardisation (CE) standards.

The following are recommendations for general equipment use:

- Helmets should be worn while participants are actively abseiling, belaying, climbing or near any cliff. A helmet-free area may be established in a safe location.
- Locking karabiners should be used for all critical connections when belaying and abseiling. The rope should be tied into the harness when climbing or when used as a safety – rope/belay. Single opening-action karabiners may be used for non-critical applications.
- Appropriate footwear and clothing should be worn.
- Sufficient emergency equipment should be carried or readily available at all times, including first-aid and communications equipment (see section 3.3 below).

For further information, please visit the UIAA website at www.uiaa.ch/

3.1.2 Equipment Belonging to Participants

Climbing instructors and guides should be aware that customer/participant-supplied equipment may have been stored and maintained differently to that of issued equipment.

It is recommended that:

- all client/participant-supplied equipment is visually inspected to ensure it is appropriate
- a client/participant’s signature is obtained, stating that the equipment is appropriate
- a policy of no client/participant equipment is developed
- all leaders, guides and assistants are fully aware of any policy relating to participant-supplied equipment and act appropriately.

3.2 Equipment Condition, Maintenance and Storage

- All equipment used in climbing activities should be used, maintained and stored according to manufacturers’ recommendations, where applicable.
- All equipment should be checked before and after each activity by the instructors/guides.
- It is recommended that all issued equipment is carefully washed after each activity, where relevant (helmets, shoes, clothing and so on). All harnesses should be supplied in a clean and serviceable condition.
- A log of equipment use and maintenance is recommended, particularly for items such as ropes.
An equipment retirement policy should be developed taking into consideration age, use, damage and wear to the equipment.

### 3.3 Communications Equipment

- Communication equipment, such as mobile phones, radios and Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) appropriate to the location should be considered for all trips, particularly for overnight/extended trips.
- Service Tasmania operates an EPIRB hiring service for all outdoor recreation activities. Units can be hired from Service Tasmania shops in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport. Service Tasmania can be contacted on 1300 135 513. For further information, please see the supplementary folder – Communications and the PWS website at [www.parks.tas.gov.au/recreation/epirbs/epirbs.html](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/recreation/epirbs/epirbs.html).

**Note:** From the 1 February 2009, the satellite system, Cospas-Sarsat, will no longer process signals from EPIRBs using 121.5 MHz. From that date, only 406 MHz beacons will be monitored. Those with the analogue 121.5 MHz beacons are being encouraged to make the switch to the digital 406 MHz beacons. For further information, please visit the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) at [http://beacons.amsa.gov.au/](http://beacons.amsa.gov.au/).

### 3.4 GPS

With the advent of cheaper, hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS), leaders/guides have access to a powerful navigational tool. However, as they are battery-operated and still liable to failure their use should always be backed up by a conventional compass.

In 2003, Tasmania began changing the coordinate system used for all maps from AGD 66 to GDA 94. All new and revised maps will be issued in the new format. If the GPS being used does not use GDA94, the satellite-derived coordinates based on the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84) should be used, as this is virtually equivalent.

To convert map readings from AGD 66 to GDA 94, add 112 metres to the easting and 183 metres to the northing coordinate.

For further details on use of GPS, please visit the University of Tasmania website at [www.utas.edu.au/spatial/locations/index.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/spatial/locations/index.html).
4 MINIMAL IMPACT GUIDELINES

Environmental factors to consider include the following:

- Always utilise recognised tracks to approach and move between climbs. Where this is not possible, or where multiple tracks exist, choose the most appropriate track and control the group to have minimal impact – even if it means taking a longer way around.
- By law, all plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features are protected. Disturbing any of these is illegal and should be avoided.
- Avoid using trees or other vegetation for belay points. If there is no alternative, protect them from rope damage as far as possible by using rope protectors or webbing.
- Try to avoid steep access and descent tracks, which will be, intrinsically, more prone to erosion, especially with larger group activities. Use abseil descents where practical.
- Do not disturb vegetation, as this will encourage erosion and promote the spread of pest plant species.
- Avoid sites with steep-sloping soil-covered bases that will be particularly prone to erosion.
- Seek permission from landowners before fixing anchors, bolting and using chalk (see section 6.4 for CVS requirements).
- Wherever possible, choose sites that have a rocky base and top so that the group does not cause vegetation damage and erosion.
- Actively manage groups at the climbing site to minimise trampling and damage to the surrounding vegetation.
- Do not block footpaths with equipment or belayers.
- Be aware of, and diplomatic with, other groups, individual climbers and recreational users of the area. Do not assume there is a right to occupy certain climbs simply because of being there first. Negotiate.
- Try to minimise noise at the activity site.
- Take the responsibility to ensure that the group respects other users, especially at campsites, whether camping with the group or not.
- Do not brush moss or lichen from the cliff, unless absolutely necessary for safety reasons.
- Wash all soil from personal and camping equipment, vehicles and river gear before leaving home or moving between locations to avoid transporting seeds or soil-borne pathogens, such as Phytophthora.
- All campsites should be located at least 20 metres from any waterway.
- Faecal matter should be buried at least 100 metres from any waterway and should be carried out from any water supply catchment area.
- Carry out all rubbish, including ‘foodstuffs’, as they may harm native wildlife.
Always use biodegradable soaps and detergents. Dispose of washing water at least 100 metres from any waterway.

No fire may be lit on a day of total fire ban. Total fire bans may be implemented regionally so be sure to check for updates daily and be aware of fire regions that cover the route.

Contact the local fire authority or local land manager for details regarding specific legal responsibility.

Where fires are permitted:
- they should only be lit in a properly constructed fireplace or pit (minimum 30 centimetres deep and a maximum one metre wide)
- at least three metres around the fireplace or pit must be clear of flammable vegetation
- they should not be left unattended
- they must be completely extinguished with water before leaving the campsite and pits must be backfilled
- use fuel stoves as an alternative, whenever possible.

For further details on minimal impact, please visit the following websites:


- Cliff Care at [www.vicclimb.org.au/old_site/pages/access.html](http://www.vicclimb.org.au/old_site/pages/access.html)
5 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

5.1 Terms

- **Activity Leader/Instructor/Guide** – An activity instructor who assumes the responsibility of the entire group to satisfy the objectives of the activities. Equivalent to an AQF Outdoor Recreation Certificate IV.

- **Critical Connection/Application** – When failure of a single piece of equipment results in a system failure.

- **Dependant Group** – In the AAS, a ‘dependant group’, whether commercial or non-commercial, is defined as one where the participants in the activity are dependent on the skills, knowledge and experience of the designated leader for the safe conduct of the activity.

- **Emergency Medical Attention** – Medical attention given by a medically qualified person such as a paramedic or a doctor. This may be getting medical attention to the injured participant/s or by getting the injured participant/s to medical attention.

- **Organisation** – A person or group of persons organised for a particular purpose and assuming the role of providing an activity of either a commercial (for profit) or non-commercial (not-for-profit/community group) basis.

- **Program Manager/Organiser** – the leader/manager that has overall responsibility to the organisation for the program.

- **Participant** – A person whose welfare is the responsibility of a guide or activity leader or instructor.

- **Peer Group** – While there may be a nominal leader for organisational or administrative purposes, a ‘peer group’, such as a group of friends or a group of activity club members, is not dependent on any one person for leading the activity but has, between the members of the group, the necessary skills, knowledge and experience for their planned program and a shared responsibility for the safe conduct of the activity.

- **Remote** – Remote activities are defined in the AAS as any activity, which is at any point more than two hours from emergency medical attention.

- **Urban** – Urban activities are defined in the AAS as any activity, which is at no point any more than two hours from emergency medical attention.

- **Spotting** – A technique to break a participant’s fall and to steer him or her to a safe landing.

- **Trainee Guide/Assistant Instructor** – A person who assumes the responsibility for a group of participants on an adventure activity, working with a leader. Equivalent to an AQF Outdoor Recreation Certificate III.

- **Waivers or Releases** – A waiver is used to document the fact that participation is voluntary, that the risks involved are acknowledged and assumed and that the intent is to release the organisation from responsibility for any injury that may occur for the privilege of being allowed to participate. It is called a ‘waiver’ because it requires the participant to agree to waive his or her rights to sue, should an injury occur while participating. It is also called a ‘release’ because the basic agreement is to release
the organisation from liability for any injury experienced while participating. Providers are advised to seek legal advice on the wording of any waiver or release.

5.2 Summary of Abbreviations

- AAS – Adventure Activity Standard/s
- ACIA – Australian Climbing Instructors Association
- ANTA – the responsibilities and functions of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) have now been transferred to the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), 2005
- AQF – Australian Qualifications Framework
- CE – European Committee for Standardisation
- Cth – Commonwealth
- CVS – Commercial Visitor Service Licensing System
- NOLRS – National Outdoor Leaders Registration Scheme
- NORTP – National Outdoor Recreation Training Package
- NTIS – National Training Information Service
- ORC – Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc. Victoria
- SRTA – Sport and Recreation Training Australia
- TCIA – Tasmanian Climbing Instructors Association
- UIAA – International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation
6 FURTHER INFORMATION

6.1 Rock Climbing and Abseiling Contacts

Australian Climbing Instructors Association
PO Box 103
Natimuk VIC 3409
Telephone: (03) 5387 1332
Facsimile: (03) 5387 1317
E-mail: info@acia.com.au
Website: www.acia.com.au/

Sport Climbing Australia (Australian Sport Climbing Federation)
c/o – Unit 4C 1-7 Unwins Bridge Road
St Peters NSW 2044
Telephone: (02) 9516 3894
Email: info@sportclimbingaustralia.org.au
Website: www.sportclimbingaustralia.org.au/1.0/home/default.htm

National Outdoor Leadership Registration Scheme
Outdoor Council of Australia
Sports House
Corner Castlemaine and Caxton Streets
Milton QLD 4064
Telephone: (07) 3369 9455
Website: www.outdoorcouncil.asn.au/9.html

Professional Association of Climbing Instructors (PACI)
PO Box 362
Hyde Park
Townsville QLD 4812
Telephone: (07) 4725 4571
Facsimile: (07) 4725 4312
E-mail: info@paci.com.au
Website: www.paci.com.au/

Tasmanian Climbing Instructors Association
E-mail: info@tcia.asn.au
Website: www.tcia.asn.au

6.2 Tasmanian Government Contacts

Bureau of Meteorology
Website: www.bom.gov.au/weather/tas/

Forestry Tasmania
Website: www.forestrytas.com.au/forestrytas/

Hydro Tasmania
Website: www.hydro.com.au

The Wellington Park Management Trust
Website: www.wellingtonpark.tas.gov.au/
Police Search and Rescue
Website: www.police.tas.gov.au/policing_services/marine_and_rescue_services
Note: All emergencies are via 000

State Emergency Service
Website: www.ses.tas.gov.au/
Note: All emergencies are via 000

Sport and Recreation Tasmania
Website: www.development.tas.gov.au/sportrec/

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service
Website: www.parks.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Department of Education
Website: www.education.tas.gov.au/

Tourism Tasmania
Website: www.tourismtasmania.com.au/

Workplace Standards Tasmania
Website: www.wst.tas.gov.au

6.3 Other Relevant Bodies

Australian Quality Training Framework
Website: www.aqf.edu.au/

Parasol EMT
Canberra Head Office
Unit 1/9 Lithgow Street
Fyshwick ACT 2609
Telephone: (02) 6280 9880 or 1300 366 818
Facsimile: (02) 6280 9881 or 1800 000 666
E-mail: admin@parasolemt.com.au
Website: www.parasolemt.com.au/

Red Cross Tasmania
40, Melville Street
Hobart TAS 7000
GPO Box 211
Hobart TAS 7001
Telephone: (03) 6235 6077
E-mail: vpage@tas.redcross.org.au
Website: www.redcross.org.au/tas_default.htm

St John Ambulance Australia
57 Sunderland St
PO Box 414
Moonah TAS 7009
Telephone: (03) 6271 0333
Facsimile: (03) 6273 7776
E-mail: tasmania@stjohn.org.au
Website: www.stjohn.org.au/
Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council  
4 Lefroy Street  
Hobart TAS 7000  
Telephone: (03) 62 310288  
E-mail: m.young@TALC.net.au

Tasmanian Volunteer Emergency Communication Association (Tas VEC)  
34 Victor Place  
Montrose TAS 7010  
Telephone: (03) 6272 4437  
Facsimile: (03) 6273 7532

Wilderness Medicine Institute - NOLS  
Unit 1/5 Hines Road,  
Oconnor WA 6163  
Telephone: (08) 9331 6066 or 1800 137 847  
Facsimile: (08) 9331 6044  
E-mail: info@wmi.net.au  
Website: www.wmi.net.au

6.4 Commercial Visitors Service (CVS)

Commercial operators wishing to conduct tourism-based operations in areas managed by one or more of the following authorities are required to have a Commercial Visitor Services (CVS) licence:

- the PWS
- Crown Land Services
- Forestry Tasmania
- the Wellington Park Management Trust.

The CVS system is managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). Further information can be obtained by contacting the CVS section on (03) 6233 3636 or at www.parks.tas.gov.au/permit/index.html

For general information on National Parks, World Heritage and Aboriginal sites, please visit www.parks.tas.gov.au/manage/manage.html

Licensees must not install, or cause to be installed, any facilities of a permanent or temporary nature without the prior written approval of the Director of the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment.
7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 National Outdoor Recreation Training Package

7.1.1 Introduction

The inclusion of this section is intended to provide a suitable benchmark, outlining the skills that a leader should have as described within the National Outdoor Recreation Training Package (NORTP).

All climbing guides should be aware of the complexity of these activities and the importance of relevant, recent experience. As such, it is recommended that a personal log book is maintained to record climbing experience at, or above, the level you guide and/or instruct.

Assisting leaders/adults should have the relevant climbing experience and group management skills necessary to provide assistance to the leader in the program.

7.1.2 National Outdoor Recreation Training Package (NORTP)

Details of these units can be accessed free-of-charge by logging on to the National Training Information Service website at www.ntis.gov.au

The units are components of national training courses that encompass the specification of knowledge areas and skills relevant to the outdoor recreation industry and the application of that knowledge and skill to a standard of performance required in the workplace.

7.1.3 Generic Skills

These units relate to the generic competence expected of any individual in a position of leadership or management of adventure activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership and Management skills</th>
<th>NORTP Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respond to emergency situations</td>
<td>SRXEMR001A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide first-aid</td>
<td>SRXFAD001A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate a group</td>
<td>SRXGRO001A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deal with conflict</td>
<td>SRXGRO002A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply sport and recreation law</td>
<td>SRXINU002A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow defined Occupational Health and Safety policy and procedures</td>
<td>SRXOHS001B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undertake risk-analysis of activities</td>
<td>SRXRIK001A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outdoor Recreation skills</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan outdoor recreation activities</td>
<td>SRROODR002A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guide outdoor recreation sessions</td>
<td>SRROODR005A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan for minimal environmental impact</td>
<td>SROOPS002B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform vertical rescues</td>
<td>SROVTR001A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply weather information</td>
<td>SROOPS005B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use and maintain a temporary or overnight site</td>
<td>SROOPS006B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.1.4 Abseiling

Abseiling at artificial sites and natural sites are independently described by the national training package, as is the case within NOLS and AAS.

Artificial Surfaces:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Pitch Abseiling guide (Artificial Surfaces)/ TCIA Basic Abseiling Instructor/Cert IV Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competent to work autonomously within a defined range of skilled operations. These should involve known routines, methods and procedures, where minimal discretion and judgement is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures and within known time constraints.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May work within clearly defined contexts conducting single pitch abseiling activities acting according to clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures and relevant documented guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons with this level of competence may only conduct single pitch abseiling activities at an artificial abseiling site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abseiling specific skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply single pitch abseiling skills on artificial surfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish ropes for abseiling on artificial surfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guide abseiling on artificial surfaces (single pitch)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Pitch Abseiling Instructor (artificial Surfaces)/ TCIA Basic Abseiling Instructor/Cert IV Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competent to work autonomously within a defined range of skilled operations. These should involve known routines, methods and procedures, where some discretion and judgement is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures and within known time constraints.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May work within clearly defined contexts instructing single pitch abseiling skills and techniques according to clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures and relevant documented guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons with this level of competence may only instruct single pitch abseiling activities at an artificial abseiling site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons with this level of competence may also work as an assistant with a more experienced leader in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs (for example, in multi-pitch situations).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A single pitch abseiling instructor requires single pitch abseiling guide competencies, PLUS:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train small groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruct abseiling on artificial surfaces (single pitch)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi Pitch Abseiling Instructor (Artificial Surfaces)/ TCIA Multi-Pitch Guide/Cert IV level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A person designated as a Multi Pitch Abseiling Instructor (Artificial Surfaces) within the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme has the competencies to instruct clients in order that they may acquire abseiling skills or abseil guiding skills to enable independent operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A person with this level of competence may instruct clients to achieve the following outcomes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- abseiling participant (single pitch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- abseiling participant (multi pitch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- - single pitch abseiling guide.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A multi pitch abseiling instructor requires single pitch abseiling instructor competencies, PLUS:

- Coordinate emergency response
- Provide leadership to groups
- Implement and monitor the organisation’s Occupational Health and Safety policies, procedures and programs
- Establish ropes for multi pitch abseiling on artificial surfaces
- Instruct abseiling on artificial surfaces (multi pitch)
- Plan outdoor recreation activities (advanced)
- Manage risk in an outdoor activity
- Perform complex vertical

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTP Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SRXEMR002A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRXGRO003A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRXOHS002B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SROABA004A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SROABA007A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SROODR003A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SROODR006A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SROVTR002A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural Surfaces:

Single Pitch Abseiling guide (Natural Surfaces) / TCIA Basic Abseiling Instructor/Cert IV Level

Competent to enable them to work autonomously within a defined range of skilled operations. These should involve known routines, methods and procedures, where some discretion and judgement is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures and within known time constraints.

May work within clearly defined contexts conducting single pitch abseiling activities acting according to clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures and relevant documented guidelines. Persons with this level of competence may only work at sites which:

- provide the opportunity for single pitch abseiling
- have natural and/or fixed anchors
- have been deemed as appropriate abseiling sites by a person with competencies equivalent to a multi-pitch abseiling guide. (This analysis of suitability may result in the establishment of a recognised local abseiling site, or sites assessed and used by specific organisations).

A person with the level of competence defined as the minimum for a single pitch abseiling guide does not have the ability to adequately assess the suitability of a new abseiling site and its anchors.

Persons with this level of competence may also work as an assistant with a more experienced leader in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs (for example, in multi-pitch situations).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTP Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SROABN003A</td>
<td>Apply single pitch abseiling skills on natural surfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SROABN004A</td>
<td>Establish ropes for single pitch abseiling on natural surfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SROABN007A</td>
<td>Guide abseiling on natural surfaces (single pitch)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A person designated as a Single Pitch Abseiling Instructor (Natural Surfaces) within the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme has the competencies that enable them to operate within a broad range of varied contexts that may be complex and non-routine. Leadership and guidance are involved when organising activities of self and others, as well as contributing to technical solutions of a non-routine or contingency nature.

A person with this level of competence may perform a broad range of skilled applications. These may include the evaluation and analysis of current practices, development of new criteria and procedures for performing current practices and provision of some leadership and guidance to others in the application and planning of the skills.

Single pitch abseiling instructors may work independently at a broad range of venues with a variety of different client groups. Persons with this level of competency have the ability to deal with complex, unpredictable and non-routine situations. Persons with this level of competence may only work at sites which:

- provide the opportunity for single pitch abseiling
- have natural and/or fixed anchors
- have been deemed as appropriate abseiling sites by a person with competencies equivalent to a multi-pitch abseiling guide or instructor (this analysis of suitability may result in the establishment of a recognised local abseiling site, or sites assessed and used by specific organisations).

Persons with this level of competence may also work as an assistant with a more experienced leader in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs (for example, in multi-pitch situations).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A single pitch abseiling instructor requires single pitch abseiling guide competencies PLUS:</th>
<th>BSZ404A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Train small groups</td>
<td>SRXEMR002A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate emergency response</td>
<td>SREXGRO003A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide leadership to groups</td>
<td>SRXOHS002B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement and monitor the organisation’s Occupational Health and Safety policies, procedures and programs</td>
<td>SROABN008A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruct abseiling on natural surfaces (single pitch)</td>
<td>SROODR006A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage risk in an outdoor activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multi pitch Abseiling Guide (Natural Surfaces)/ TCIA Multi-Pitch Guide/Cert IV level

Competent to operate within a broad range of varied contexts that may be complex and non-routine. Leadership and guidance are involved when organising activities of self and others, as well as contributing to technical solutions of a non-routine or contingency nature.

A person with this level of competence may perform a broad range of skilled applications. These may include the evaluation and analysis of current practices, development of new criteria and procedures for performing current practices and provision of some leadership and guidance to others in the application and planning of the skills.

Multi-pitch abseiling guides may work independently at a broad range of venues with a variety of different client groups. Persons with this level of competency have the ability to deal with complex, unpredictable and non routine situations. Persons with this level of competence may work at sites, which:

- have natural, fixed or artificial anchors
- are multi pitch
- have the potential to provide non-routine situations (for example, adverse weather conditions and complex rescue situations).
A multi-pitch abseiling Instructor requires single pitch abseiling guide competencies, PLUS:

- Coordinate emergency response
- Provide leadership to groups
- Implement and monitor the organisation’s Occupational Health and Safety policies, procedures and programs
- Apply multi-pitch abseiling skills on natural surfaces
- Establish ropes for multi-pitch abseiling on natural surfaces
- Guide abseiling on natural surfaces (multi pitch)
- Plan outdoor recreation activities (advanced)
- Manage risk in an outdoor activity
- Perform complex vertical rescues

SRXEMR002A
SRXGRO003A
SRXOHS002B
SROABN005A
SROABN006A
SROABN009A
SROODR003A
SROODR006A
SROVTR002A

Multi-Pitch Abseiling Instructor (Natural Surfaces)/TCIA Multi-Pitch Guide/Cert IV level

A person designated as a Multi-Pitch Abseiling Instructor (Natural Surfaces) within NOLRS has the competencies to instruct clients in order that they may acquire abseiling skills or abseiling guiding skills to enable independent operation.

A person with this level of competence may instruct clients to achieve the following outcomes:

- Abseiling participant (single pitch)
- Abseiling participant (multi pitch)
- Single-pitch abseiling guide
- Multi-pitch abseiling guide.

SRXODR003A
SRXVTR002A
SROABN005A
SROABN006A
SROABN010A

A multi-pitch abseiling instructor requires single pitch abseiling instructor competencies, PLUS:

- Plan outdoor recreation activities (advanced)
- Perform complex vertical rescues
- Apply multi-pitch abseiling on natural surfaces (multi pitch)
- Establish ropes for multi-pitch abseiling on natural surfaces
- Instruct abseiling on natural surfaces (multi pitch)

SRXODR003A
SRXVTR002A
SROABN005A
SROABN006A
SROABN010A

7.1.5 Rock Climbing (Natural Surfaces Only):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLIMBING GUIDE</th>
<th>UNIT CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single pitch TCIA Top Rope and Abseil/Cert IV level</td>
<td>SROCLN007A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is the firm position of the ACIA that any climbing guide should be capable of basic lead climbing at a standard satisfying the requirements of SROCLN004A. As such, ACIA do not recognise this level of competency.</td>
<td>SROCLN002A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have the necessary skills equivalent to Single Pitch Abseiling Instructor (Natural Surfaces)/TCIA Basic Abseiling Instructor, and the following additional units:</td>
<td>SROCLN003A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guide climbing activities on natural surfaces (restricted)</td>
<td>SROVTR001A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including the units:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply climbing skills on natural surfaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish belays for climbing on natural surfaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform vertical rescues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.2 Risk Assessment and Management Units

- First Aid
  - Basic - SRXFAD001A Provide first-aid, from the Sport and Recreation Package, or HLTFA1A Provide Basic first-aid, from the Health and Fitness Package
  - More advanced/remote area - SRXFAD 002A Provide advanced first-aid response, SRXFAD 005A Manage casualty in a remote and/or isolated area

- Managing a Critical Incident
  - SRXEMR001A Respond to emergency situations
  - SRXEMR002A Coordinate emergency response

- Managing Risk
  - SRXRIK002A Manage an organisation’s risk
  - SRXRIK003A Develop an organisational risk management policy

- Risk Assessment
  - BSBMGT609A Manage risk
  - SRXRIK001A Undertake risk-analysis of activities

7.3 Appendix 3: Tourism and Hospitality Packages

- Tourism Training Package - Guiding (THT02)
  - THTFT 004B Provide campsite catering

- Hospitality Training Package (THH02)
- THHGHS 01B/01 Follow workplace hygiene procedures
- THHGHS 01B/02 Follow workplace hygiene procedures
CONTACT DETAILS

Sport and Recreation Tasmania
Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts
22 Elizabeth Street
HOBART TASMANIA 7000
GPO Box 646
HOBART TASMANIA 7001
Ph +61 3 6233 5926
Fax +61 3 6233 5800
Email: sportrec@development.tas.gov.au
www.development.tas.gov.au