Demonstrate knowledge of safety observer responsibilities in the workplace

Level	**3**
Credits	**8**

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to identify: criteria where the Safety Observer is required to control, monitor and maintain safety for activity; hazardous environments and activities requiring safety observer control; the safety observer responsibilities; and emergency response measures.

Subfield	Occupational Health and Safety
Domain	Occupational Health and Safety Practice
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Accreditation	Evaluation of documentation by NZQA and industry.
Standard setting body (SSB)	New Zealand Industry Training Organisation – Industrial Health and Safety Advisory Group

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0171

This AMAP can be accessed at http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do.

Special notes

Definitions
Organisational requirements refer to instructions to staff on policy and procedures which are documented in memo or manual format and are available in the workplace. These requirements may include but are not limited to – site specific requirements, company quality management requirements, approved codes of practice and guidelines, and legislative requirements.

Legislative requirements include but are not limited to compliance with – Health and Safety in Employment (HSE) Act 1992 (HSE), Health and Safety in Employment (HSE) Regulations 1995, their subsequent amendments and any applicable Approved Codes of Practice created under the primary Act or related guidelines; Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996; Resource Management Act 1991; local body regulations.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Identify criteria where the safety observer is required to control, monitor and maintain safety for activity.

Performance criteria

1.1 Types of work potentially requiring a safety observer are identified.

Range includes but is not limited to – hot work, confined space entry, excavation, work at heights.

1.2 Supporting documents stipulating safety observer requirements and system support are identified according to type and requirement.

Range includes but is not limited to – work permit procedures, specified duties, permit forms, gas monitoring forms, rescue plans, fire control plans, site evacuation.

Element 2

Identify hazardous environments and activities requiring safety observer control.

Performance criteria

2.1 Work environments with conditions requiring observation are identified.

Range work environment conditions include but are not limited to – toxic gases, flammable liquids, vapours, dust, fire, explosion, oxygen depletion, other chemicals, toxic fumes, hazardous machinery.

2.2 Work activities, with potential for harmful incidents, requiring observation are identified.

Range work incidents include but are not limited to – physical falls, slips, noise, electrocution, impact, entrapment, engulfment, oxygen depletion, toxic formation, heat or cold stress, exhaustion, housekeeping standards, restricted egress/exit.

Element 3

Identify the safety observer responsibilities.

Performance criteria

3.1 General responsibilities and duties for safety observer are identified and are consistent with health and safety and organisational requirements.

Range includes but is not limited to – establishing, maintaining and checking communication systems; emergency response rescue equipment; maintaining control of post whilst actively performing and coordinating emergency containment and/or rescue activities; monitoring work activity and/or environment and keeping records appropriate to permit requirements.

3.2 Specific responsibilities and duties for hot work safety observer are identified and are consistent with health and safety and organisational requirements.

Range includes but is not limited to – checking work environment prior to commencement and during hot work activity for flammable materials, gases, liquids, dust particles; watching for egress of ignition source and controlling containment; communicating with workforce and support teams; extinguishing small fires at source; rechecking area after completion of the job.

3.3 Specific responsibilities and duties for confined space entry safety observer are identified and are consistent with health and safety and organisational requirements.

Range includes but is not limited to – monitoring work and adjacent areas environments; gas testing; maintaining records of tests and entry; ensuring rescue teams are available; ensuring communication systems are effective and remaining at post to form continual communication link and life support; raising alarm for abnormalities; coordinating rescue; evacuating entry team for emergency evacuation; accounting for all personnel.

3.4 Specific responsibilities and duties of the safety observer for excavation work are identified and are consistent with health and safety and organisational requirements.

Range includes but is not limited to – coordinating communications; continual monitoring of work activity and environment; identifying underground, overhead and surrounding obstacles; barricading and controlling entry to work area; raising alarm for abnormalities.

3.5 Specific responsibilities and duties of the safety observer for work at heights are identified and are consistent with health and safety and organisational requirements.

Range includes but is not limited to – ensuring rescue plan, equipment and team available; monitoring work activity and/or environment; ensuring protective equipment is securely attached; maintaining communication links; raising alarm for abnormalities.

Element 4

Identify emergency response measures.

Performance criteria

4.1 Emergency equipment for containment, control, and rescue is identified and is consistent with site emergency response plan.

Range includes but is not limited to – fire protection and extinguishment, lighting, breathing apparatus, rescue harnesses, life lines, communication systems.

4.2 Rescue team, rescue plan, and coordinating control are identified and are consistent with the site emergency response plan.

Range includes but is not limited to – team response, rescue plan relevant to activity and coordinator, agreed communication processes.

4.3 Communication systems relevant to environmental conditions and activity are identified for coordinating and controlling emergency events in accordance with the site emergency response plan and the emergency requirements.

Range communication systems include but are not limited to – voice, telephones, radios, signals;
environmental conditions and activity include but are not limited to – proximity, visibility, noise levels, atmospheric and/or physical interference with radio and telephones.

Please note

Providers must be accredited by NZQA, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the New Zealand Industry Training Organisation office@nzito.co.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.