

INDUSTRY PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERPIN SAFE ADVENTURE OPERATIONS

Founding principles

Operators demonstrate a positive safety culture driven by committed leaders

A positive safety culture: The first principle upon which all others are founded, it is characterised by an overt commitment to safety at every level of an organisation; it relies on leaders promoting and adhering to good safety practices e.g. leading by example, consistently.

Organisations with a positive safety culture are characterised by communications founded on mutual trust, by shared perceptions of the importance of safety and by confidence in the efficacy of preventive measures.

Operators have a safety management system (SMS) relevant to their operation

Safety management system: A coordinated and comprehensive set of processes specifically designed to optimise safety performance. An SMS addresses safety across all aspects of the organisation and includes provisions for recruitment, training, safe communication, well documented standard operating procedures, internal and external assessment programmes, safety reporting, incident reporting, and emergency action plans. An SMS addresses the potential for both systemic weaknesses and active failures.



Core principles

Operators have an external assessment before commencing operations

Initial external assessment: An assessment by an independent third party appropriately qualified to assess and approve the type of activity being undertaken.

Its primary function is to assess the SMS and provide operators with advice and support: is the SMS comprehensive, workable and tailored correctly for that activity? It includes a site visit.

Operations are subject to ongoing external assessments

Ongoing external assessments: Primarily for verifying compliance with approved standards, procedures and/or national standards where available; as with the 'initial' audit, they assess the relevancy and effectiveness of the SMS and provide advice and support to operators. They also include a site visit.

Operators ensure that staff are competent

Staff competency: Organisations ensure staff have appropriate experience supported by relevant training and/or qualifications. Induction training is followed by ongoing training at a frequency and depth that is consistent with the nature of the activity. The correct balance of experienced to less-experienced staff is consciously managed.

Operators clearly communicate the risks involved and responsibilities the clients themselves have in mitigating them

Risk and safety information to clients: prior to undertaking the activity, clients are provided with appropriate risk and safety information in a form and depth that is tailored for the activity, but addresses cross-cultural communication barriers. Client information can be delivered in writing, verbally, pictorially or via a combination of mediums.

Operators have well maintained equipment that is fit for purpose

Well maintained, fit for purpose equipment: equipment and/or infrastructure is subject to regular review under the SMS framework. It is maintained or replaced at intervals that ensure it remains fit for purpose and suitable for commercial delivery of the activity.

Safety information is willingly exchanged externally

Exchange of safety information: organisations make a conscious and formalised effort to share safety information (including lessons learned) with others while externally seeking information that may strengthen their own safety provisions. Commercial interests are pushed aside in the interests of achieving better safety outcomes through shared learning.