



# Advisory Circular

ISSUE NO.81-1, 1 NOVEMBER 2012

## Part 81: Commercial Rafting Operations

### 1. General

#### 1.1 Purpose of advisory circulars

Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) advisory circulars are designed to give assistance and explanations for the standards and requirements set out in the maritime rules. However, the notes contained in advisory circulars should not be treated as a substitute for the rules themselves, which are the law.

If an advisory circular sets out how a rule can be satisfied, then compliance with that advice will ensure compliance with the rule. Other methods for complying with the rule may also be possible. Where there is doubt about how to comply with a particular clause of a rule, contact MNZ for advice.

Advisory circulars may be amended from time to time, or new advisory circulars may be issued. Any changes to advisory circulars will be notified to rafting operators by email and made available on the MNZ website.

This advisory circular supports Maritime Rule Part 81 – Commercial Rafting Operations. Number references (such as 81.2) relates to specific rules within Part 81.

The numbering of rules in Part 81 follows a new convention, which is based on a new block of numbers for each subpart. Subpart A starts at Rule 81.11, subpart B starts at 81.31, subpart C at 81.51, and so on.

#### 1.2 Application of Rule Part 81 (Rule 81.2)

Part 81 applies to all commercial rafts carrying passengers or trainee guides on rivers. This rule also applies to raft hire operations.

The rules do not apply to sporting events, or to rafts used in commercial applications that do not involve the carriage of passengers – for example, a raft used to carry gear for a separate adventure activity.

Although the rules do not apply to activities that do not carry passengers or trainee guides, event organisers and operators of gear boats have responsibilities to manage hazards under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. They must also comply with navigational safety requirements under the Maritime Transport Act 1994 (MTA; see river safety Rule 91.17 in Part 91) or any applicable regional council bylaws.

## **2. Supportive guidance to the rule part**

### **2.1 Safety practices for specific rivers (Rules 81.11)**

Rule 81.11 provides that the Director may determine specific practices for rivers after consulting with the appropriate persons or organisations. The Director has determined that the New Zealand Rivers Association (NZRA) and operators and guides working on specific rivers are among the appropriate parties to consult on matters such as river flow cut-off levels, safety requirements at rapids, provision of safety boats, communication practices, back-up arrangements for sole-guided raft trips and the content of rescue kits.

### **2.2 Safe operational plan approval, review and modification (Rules 81.12, 81.13 and 81.14)**

The rules are designed to make the safe operational plan (SOP) a living document by having regular annual reviews and incorporating lessons learnt from accidents, incidents and mishaps. Reviews and changes need to be documented, with an amendment form included to enable staff and auditors to identify the changes made. While some modifications (such as call-out details) do not require prior approval, changes such as extending the area of rafting operations or changing on-river communications or back-up arrangements require sign-off by the Director.

During every review, it is important to assess the overall operation, as well as being made aware of any improvements in technology, river-rescue skills or capabilities, ways of running particular rapids and additional safety measures that may be required.

### **2.3 Inspection and audit of commercial rafting operations (Rule 81.16)**

The frequency of audits the Director requires for an operator will vary between one and three years, and depend on the type of operation, the outcomes of previous audits and the operator's accident history.

The audit results for each operation and any accidents and incidents will be recorded in a central database, to enable MNZ to determine which areas of operation are high risk and which have low risks.

### **2.4 Guides to be medically and physically fit (Rule 81.33)**

It is the responsibility of both the raft guide and the rafting operator to ensure that a guide only works if they are medically and physically fit to cope with the demands of raft guiding, including undertaking river rescue. Guides must disclose to their employer any injury or medical condition that might affect their ability to work.

The rules do not require guides to have periodic medical tests. However, an operator should require a guide to undergo a medical assessment to determine the likelihood of a recurring injury or medical condition being induced by rafting, or affecting their performance of guiding a raft. For example, if a guide is prone to recurring musculoskeletal injuries, an injury assessment and support braces to stabilise the muscle or joint should be considered. If a guide suffers from a condition requiring medication, such as diabetes or anaphylaxis, the medication and method of treatment must be carried on the raft trip and the guides must know how to administer treatment in the event of an emergency.

Another potential cause of guide impairment is the use of alcohol and other drugs. Operators should ensure they have measures in place to manage this hazard. Appropriate

measures may include a SOP policy and procedure for workplace testing of guides for alcohol and other drugs.

Guide fatigue is also a hazard, and operators should ensure their SOP has a policy and procedure to manage this potential source of harm.

## 2.5 Currency in river rescue (Rule 81.34)

A guide who undertakes trip leader duties must demonstrate currency in river-rescue skills by completing relevant training at intervals of not more than 36 months. The standard of training must reflect the content of the New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) Unit Standard, *Apply knowledge of river rescue skills on Grade III or above white-water* (currently Unit Standard 26513). This training is provided annually at NZRA river-rescue workshops.

Evidence of completion of the training course must be signed-off by the national raft assessor who supervised the training course and be held in the SOP or at the location referenced in the SOP. This record must be available to the Director or an individual with the Director's delegated powers. At each SOP audit, the auditor will check the staff's currency in river rescue.

The Director has the discretion to accept alternative training courses that are considered equivalent to the national standard, after consultation with the appropriate organisation/s.

## 2.6 Guides must hold current first aid certificates (Rule 81.35)

The following are alternatives to the NZQA unit standards identified in Rule 81.35:

For 6400 (the minimum requirements for guides):

- in combination, the NZQA Unit Standards 26551, Provide first aid for life threatening conditions and 26552, Demonstrate knowledge of common first aid conditions and how to respond to them
- the Director accepts the alternative first aid qualifications notified on the MNZ website as providing equivalent or higher levels of first aid training.

For 424 (the minimum requirements for trip leaders and for holders of senior national raft guide award) and for 6400:

- the Director accepts the alternative first aid qualifications notified on the MNZ website as providing equivalent or higher levels of training.

Other alternative first aid qualifications may be accepted by the Director if they are accompanied by evidence of their content and standard being equivalent to either Unit Standard 6400 or 424. Where an operator (or guide) wants alternative first aid certificates accepted, the onus is on the operator (or guide) to show evidence that the standard is equivalent to, or higher than, either Unit Standard 6400 or 424 and that the certificate is authentic.

A first aid certificate will only be considered current if it has been awarded within the previous 26 months,<sup>1</sup> or has been revalidated by attending appropriate-level first aid refresher training within the same period.

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<sup>1</sup> For flexibility, an additional two months is added to the 24 month term of validity for most first aid certificates. This is within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment guideline on workplace first aid that the holder of a certificate that has lapsed for more than 3 months from the anniversary date of issue should complete a full first aid course.

Providing a current certificate may not be sufficient evidence that the qualification is valid, and evidence may be required to show that the qualification is recorded on a provider's database. Such evidence may also replace the need to produce the certificate.

Evidence of the first aid qualifications held by guides must be provided by the operator for all staff, including contract guides.

## **2.7 Guide clothing and personal floatation device (Rule 81.36)**

Guides and trainee guides are required to wear a fit-for-purpose personal floatation device (PFD). It is the responsibility of both the guide and the rafting operator to ensure that a guide's device is fit for purpose. This includes being properly maintained and not suffering adverse effects from wear and age. There is no prescription for the type of PFD guides should wear, but they are expected to wear a PFD with an integrated harness and releasable belt.

A conformity assessment body or national safety body should certify that the selected devices meet national (such as that set by the United States' federal code of regulations), or international (European or ISO) standards for white-water rafting.

## **2.8 Recognition of award issuing organisation (Rule 81.37)**

The Director currently recognises Skills Active Aotearoa as the award-issuing organisation. Skills Active Aotearoa consults with NZRA and MNZ about raft guide qualifications, training and assessment.

National raft guide assessments are conducted by national rafting assessors registered with Skills Active Aotearoa (see the link below for a full list of assessors). The assessor may use guides who hold the national senior raft guide award as evidence verifiers in the assessment process. National rafting assessors report their assessment results to Skills Active Aotearoa, which registers the unit standards with NZQA.

<http://www.skillsactive.org.nz/Searches/RaftAssessors.aspx>

Qualified guides will be registered on the Skills Active Aotearoa raft guide register (see the link below). In the interval between the successful assessment of a guide and their registration on the Skills Active Aotearoa register, the operator or guide should keep a copy of the assessment outcome document as evidence of having achieved the national guide or national senior guide awards.

<http://www.skillsactive.org.nz/Searches/RaftGuides.aspx>

## **2.9 Instruction in river awareness and raft-handling procedures (Rule 81.53)**

Safety briefings and training must be appropriate for the nature of any rapids on the river and the level of risk involved.

## **2.10 Safety briefing card (Rule 81.54)**

Multilingual passenger safety briefing cards for rafting are available from NZRA at [www.nz-rafting.co.nz](http://www.nz-rafting.co.nz).

## **2.11 Safe seating of passengers (Rules 81.55)**

Generally, on grade 4 or 5 river sections, paddle rafts that are 4 to 5 metres long may carry up to seven passengers plus a guide. However, operators should reduce loadings where

additional risks are identified, including when cargo is carried on multi-day trips or if controlling the raft is likely to be compromised.

On river sections with grades from 1 to 3, rafts ranging from 4 to 5 metres long may carry up to eight passengers plus a guide. However, where an operator carries loads of eight passengers, this should be clearly identified in the SOP and approved by MNZ for the particular river. On grade 1 and 2 river sections, passenger loads may exceed eight.

Some rivers may have agreed operating parameters that restrict passenger loadings to fewer than seven people. These are established under Rule 81.11.

## 2.12 Passenger personal floatation devices (Rules 81.56)

Under this rule, passengers must be provided with, and wear, a type 406 specialist white-water rafting personal flotation device (PFD). In the case of children, a type 402 device (an inshore waters PFD) may be substituted. In the case of adults involved in oar rafting on rivers of grade 2 or less, a type 402 device may be substituted. The standards for type 402 and type 406 devices are specified in the New Zealand standard NZS 5823:2005.

Under Rule 81.56(5), the Director has the discretion to accept certain PFDs other than type 402 and type 406. The Director has exercised this discretion and currently accepts the standards and types of devices identified in the table below as alternatives for complying with the requirement of this rule. In each case, the device must be verified by a recognised authority as complying with the standard and be designed for use in white-water rafting. The right-hand column indicates the conformity assessment body or national safety authority the Director recognises as competent to verify the compliance of devices with the standards.

National and international standard	Standard reference and type	Key PFD marking to identify standard and type	Conformity assessment body / National safety authority
<b>United States</b>	UL 1177-2007 Type V PFD – Special use device/Commercial Whitewater Vests	Type V PFD – Special use device/Commercial Whitewater Vests and  US coastal approval number 160.### / #### / # *	United States Coast Guard (national safety authority)
<b>Australia</b>	AS 4758-2008 (Special purpose lifejackets and buoyancy aids)  AS 1512-1996	AS 4758.1 level 100s  PFD Type 1	Conformity assessment bodies holding product certification accreditation from JAS-ANZ
<b>International Organization for Standardisation</b>	ISO 12402-2006-6** (Special purpose)	ISO 12402-6 “for use by persons engaged in commercial white-water rafting”	Conformity assessment bodies holding product certification accreditation, European co-operation for Accreditation

\* The status of United States Coast Guard device approvals can be verified at the US Coast Guard Maritime Information exchange at <http://cgmix.uscg.mil/Equipment/EquipmentSearch.aspx?SortOrder=ByNumber>.

\*\* The ISO standard is directly equivalent to the EN ISO standard.

Devices certified to European/ISO standards will be identifiable by CE (Conformité Européene) marking, as shown below:



Labels on devices, including US Coast Guard-approved devices, will also bear a certification mark from the organisation that has undertaken the conformity assessment.

Operators are advised to record the details of devices in their SOP, including the manufacturer and any batch numbers or serial numbers, to ensure information about the devices is available in the event of labelling information being lost through normal in-service wear.

It is advisable that all type 402 children's devices are fitted with a crotch strap. These are available from manufacturers. Crotch straps should also be considered where a person's body shape prevents the device from being fitted securely.

## 2.13 Helmets (Rules 81.57)

Helmets worn by guides and passengers must be of a standard suitable for rafting.

Subject to provision in an operator's SOP, guides and passengers are not required to wear helmets on rivers with rapids of grades 1 and 2.

On rivers with higher grade rapids, passengers and guides may remove helmets between rapids where it is approved in the SOP and at the discretion of the trip leader or guide, provided the helmet is worn and properly fitted on all rapids greater than grade 2.

## 2.14 Clothing and footwear (Rule 81.58)

An operator must ensure that clients wear suitable clothing for the conditions. In environmental conditions encountered in New Zealand, this will normally include wetsuits, paddle jackets and/or fleece clothing.

Thermal wear means clothing appropriate to maintaining a safe and comfortable body temperature. In conditions on some rivers during summer, clothing such as shorts and a rash vest may be considered appropriate.

## 2.15 Commercial rafts and their equipment (Rules 81.71 and 81.72)

The Director has determined under Rule 81.71(3) that rafts must meet the following criteria to be considered of a type approved for use by commercial rafting operators. Each raft must:

- have been designed and manufactured for use in commercial rafting
- have multiple chambers, each with its own valve
- be constructed from durable fabric such as hypalon®, PVC, polyurethane or a combination of such fabrics
- have valve caps to prevent accidental deflation if the raft has push-button valves

- have self-bailing floors if used on rapids of grades 4 or 5, unless an operator's SOP specifically provides that such floors are not required.

In all cases, rafts must be fit for purpose. A higher standard may be required for specific sections of river.

If an operator lends or hires a raft to another commercial operator, the operator who is using the raft is responsible for ensuring the raft is fit for purpose before it is used commercially.

## 2.16 Equipment carried on commercial rafts (Rule 81.73)

This rule provides that the line in the throw bag is sufficiently long and big enough to be effective. Generally, throw ropes range from 8 to 10 millimetres in diameter and 10 to 25 metres in length. The line must float.

The minimum contents of the rescue kit should be specific to the river and may be established under Rule 81.11(3), which may have a nil requirement. Otherwise, the rescue kit should include the following equipment, as a minimum:

- a line of sufficient length and dimension for the river – normally, this will be a 9–10 millimetre nylon static line capable of being used to retrieve wrapped rafts
- one pulley that will enable a mechanical rope-hauling system to be more efficient
- a river rescue saw, for rivers with overhanging branches or timber strainers.

## 2.17 Safety boat requirements (Rule 81.74)

The use of safety boats is a river-specific safety practice that may be determined under Rule 81.11(3).

A safety boat can be a kayak, raft or river sledge, although for some rivers and river levels the safety boat must be a kayak. The Director must approve the use of a river sledge as a safety boat.

Generally, safety boats should be used on:

- grade 4 or 5 rapids in continuous-flow rivers at levels that have potential for swimmers to be washed between rapids in the event of a flip
- grade 4 or 5 rapids on rivers run infrequently in order to scout rapids
- rivers with specific hazards that warrant a safety boat's presence.

It is the responsibility of the rafting operator to determine if a safety boat is required on other rivers or at certain river flows.

Safety rafts must not carry passengers. The safety raft could be an oar raft, "cataraft" or shredder.<sup>2</sup> The crew of a safety paddle raft may be guides, trainees or employees of the rafting operator. The guide of a safety raft must be a qualified guide and have undergone sufficient training to carry other guides, trainees or employees of the rafting operator and to perform the required safety function.

As the guide of a safety raft or skipper of a safety kayak or river sledge often works in isolation, they must be able to demonstrate sufficient spare capacity, in terms of their boating and rescue skills, for the operating conditions. Skippers of safety kayaks or river sledges are not required to be qualified raft guides, but they must demonstrate the same level of competency in river-rescue skills and familiarity with the SOP as a guide.

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<sup>2</sup> A two-man cataraft.

The following list of functions and competencies has been prepared to help operators to assess the competence required by people controlling safety boats. Skill requirements for operating safety kayaks are also detailed on the NZRA website at [www.nz-rafting.co.nz](http://www.nz-rafting.co.nz).

**Safety boaters must be able to:**

- scout, read and run rapids without input or guidance from others
- position above or below hazards to assist and provide guidance to any potential swimmers
- maintain proximity to rafts to assist swimmers back to the raft if required, through verbal instruction, carriage or towing
- retrieve dropped paddles and equipment
- provide downstream containment by ensuring they access the furthest downstream swimmer
- access small eddies to assist in a rescue situation, and enter and exit the safety boat in difficult places
- rescue swimmers (those in most danger first)
- know the river and be familiar with specific hazards
- direct rafts efficiently through a complex rapid, using NZRA-recognised signals and company-specific signals
- pass on information about safe lines and hazards to raft guides
- retrieve and right abandoned rafts that may be washing downstream, while maintaining control of their own craft
- assist in raft-rescue situations to comparable levels as raft guides
- get a rope across the river
- provide first aid where necessary
- assist an unconscious victim to shore
- paddle out for help if required.

**The safety kayak must have:**

- sufficient volume to reduce risk to the paddler
- sufficient volume to perform front and rear deck carries
- well-maintained bow and stern grab loops or similar arrangements
- airbags or sufficient flotation to enable an abandoned kayak to be retrieved efficiently
- well-maintained bungs.

**Equipment carried by a safety boat guide or skipper must include:**

- webbing sling
- knife
- whistle
- throw bag
- at least 2 karabiners
- at least 2 prussic cords
- a releasable towline attached to PFD (in the case of a safety kayaker)
- first aid kit
- spare paddle.

### **Photo boaters used as safety boats**

Combining photo/video services and safety boat provision must be consistent with safety boater requirements, recognising that there may be places on a river where the services of a safety boater are not required and media services may be offered.

On specific rapids where an on-river safety boater is required, no media services should be performed by that person. A photo/video boater who also performs safety duties must meet all the skills, experience and qualification requirements of a safety boater.

A photographer must fulfil the safety boater function on rapids where the SOP identifies that a safety boat is required.

## **2.18 Hours of operation (Rule 81.76)**

Generally, raft trips must be scheduled to finish half an hour before sunset. Sunset times for the different regions of New Zealand are available online from the *New Zealand Nautical Almanac* at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/hydro/nautical-info/astronomical-info>.

It is the responsibility of the operator and guides to ensure that sufficient time is provided to run the raft trip safely and finish within the required timeframe. During winter months, raft trip departure times may need to be adjusted to allow for shorter daylight hours.

Night rafting may be permitted if it is a purpose of the trip and where it is identified in the approved SOP. For night rafting, each raft must carry a torch and each passenger must be fitted with or carry some form of lighting. This could be in the form of attached glow sticks or waterproof personal torches.

Guides must be familiar with the river to such an extent that reduced night vision has no impact on their awareness of the location of any potential hazards. Generally, night rafting is suitable only for easily navigable grade 1 or 2 river sections.

## **2.19 River and weather conditions (Rule 81.77)**

River levels and the effects of prevailing and forecasted weather patterns must be assessed for each trip. To assist in this process, river levels and weather forecasts should be documented on trip plans. Sources of weather information are not prescribed, but operators should take all practicable steps to ensure they are aware of any forecasts that may adversely affect their river trips.

Along with monitoring weather forecasts, subscribing to the MetService severe weather warning is a useful way to identify potential weather threats to rafting operations.

Where electronic flow gauges are available, these should be used to determine safe flow levels, and records should be maintained to enable guides to learn from any historic trends in flow patterns and rainfall intensity.

## **2.20 Record keeping (Rule 81.82)**

Every operator must keep a permanent written record of every accident, incident or mishap on board or involving a commercial raft belonging to the commercial rafting operator. Accident, incident and mishap records should be kept in a format suited to keeping them intact and accessible for a period up to seven years.

## 2.21 Sole guiding and trip leading on grades 1 and 2 (Rules 81.83 and 81.87)

An operator must ensure that a guide who undertakes trip leader duties on rivers of grades 1 and 2 meets the following minimum standards:

- holds the national raft guide grade 2 award and demonstrates river-rescue skills
- passes an assessment by a national raft assessor against either Unit Standard 26513 or against a standard for river-rescue skills, specific for the river section to be led
- proves currency of their river-rescue skills by holding a certificate of completion from a training course or by being signed off by a national rafting assessor as completing the course. Training must take place at intervals of not more than 36 months.

## 2.22 Subpart E – Vocational training for trainee guides (Rules 81.111 and 81.112)

This subpart sets out the parameters and procedures for raft guide training.

Where training takes place in a commercial rafting operation, the parameters and procedures must be reflected in the company's SOP. Such an operation is subject to the requirements in subpart A of the rules, which deals with safe operational plans (preparation, approval, review and modification); inspection and audit; and certificates of compliance.

Where the training is delivered by an educational provider that is not a commercial rafting operation (a polytechnic, for example), there is no requirement for the organisation to have an operational plan approved by MNZ or a certificate of compliance. However, the Director may undertake audits to confirm that a polytechnic's training system conforms to the training parameters and procedures set out in Rule 81.112.

The rules from subpart E and guidance for complying with each rule are outlined below in italic text. There may be other ways of complying with the rules.

*(a) Parameters within which trainee guides may undertake trips without on-river supervision where the only other persons on the raft are trainee guides.*

This rule recognises that some educational providers provide self-directed learning opportunities in which trainees are provided with rafts to conduct their own river trips without an accompanying qualified guide. This type of training should only occur when the trainees have reached a level of competence in their raft guide training where they can cope with the demands of the planned river to be rafted, including having river-rescue capabilities without on-river supervision by a qualified guide. The training guide should have observed the trainees guiding their own rafts and dealing with river rescues competently before considering them suitable to participate in training trips without on-river supervision.

Training records should be maintained to demonstrate when trainees are sufficiently advanced in their skills to manage training rafts on selected rivers without on-river supervision. Suitable rivers and river-level parameters should be established, including awareness of any significant hazards and any safety management strategies for particular rapids or hazards. A training raft without on-river supervision by a qualified guide should only be crewed by other trainee guides. There should be no passengers on these training rafts.

The trainee guides must wear and use appropriate gear and clothing under Rule 81.36. At least one raft in the party should carry an appropriate means of emergency communication and first aid, rescue and repair kits. There must be a responsible person who is aware of

the rafting trip details, including the names of the trainee guides on the rafting trip, the river rafted and the estimated time of return. The responsible person should be able to initiate an emergency overdue response plan in the event of trainees not returning at the agreed time.

*(b) Parameters within which trainee guides may be carried on a commercial raft when river conditions exceed those specified in the commercial raft operator's approved safe operational plan for the carriage of passengers*

This rule recognises that training may be conducted during higher or lower river conditions than those normally used for commercial passengers, to enable trainee guides to develop the competence and confidence to perform efficiently at commercial cut-off levels for specific rivers. It also recognises that some rapids may be run in different ways than a normal commercial raft might operate, to enable trainees to test and extend their skills. If a trainee raft operates above or below commercial rafting river cut-off levels, the levels of operation should be defined. If any specific manoeuvres to be conducted in rapids differ from manoeuvres expected from a commercial raft, these should be noted in a training plan. Examples of manoeuvres that should be noted in a training plan for selected rivers could include:

- rafting the tail race on the Kaituna River
- rafting the "Mother in Law" rapids on the Shotover River at levels when the commercial rafts are rafting through the tunnel
- rafting Rock A on the Rangitaiki River below cut-off levels, to develop the skills to take the raft themselves (R1) through the section, as is the case for commercial trips.

*(c) Procedures for permitting a trainee guide to control a raft without a guide on board*

This rule recognises that at a certain point in a trainee's development, the guide trainer may wish to observe the trainee raft from on board another craft. The trainees should be at a level of competency to manage the raft safely and to be able to rescue themselves in the event of any mishap. However, the supervising guide must be equipped and positioned to assist in their rescue if required.

If the trainee raft is accompanying a commercial raft trip without a guide on board, then the trip leader's responsibilities for the trainee raft should be defined in the SOP.

*(d) Procedures to be followed when trainee guides participate in simulated incidents and mishaps to test rescue, recovery and emergency response skills*

This rule recognises that trainee guides have to participate in river-rescue skills, including raft flips, wrap recovery, rapid swimming, and rope rescue and recovery. The level of training required must be consistent with the river-rescue requirements of the national raft guide awards. The Skills Active Aotearoa assessor resources identify the skills and knowledge that need to be covered in training.

River-rescue training should be supervised by guides who hold the national senior raft guide awards and are maintaining their currency in river rescue (see Rule 81.34 (2)). Where a guide who holds a national raft guide award is involved with river-rescue training, they must be sufficiently experienced and have maintained their river-rescue currency in line with Rule 81.34.

Rescue training on grade 3 rapids and above should be supervised by at least two guides, one of whom should be a senior guide.

Rescue training sites should be assessed as appropriate before simulated activities are undertaken. Parameters should be set to ensure that any simulated mishaps are managed

safely, and should be conducted in areas where there is sufficient run-out for the trainees to rescue themselves and/or others.

*(e) Procedures to ensure the necessary equipment is carried or worn by trainee guides*

Trainee guides must carry and wear the same clothing and equipment as raft guides as set out in subpart B, or the same clothing and equipment as a passenger. At the point in their training when the guide is no longer supervising them from on board the trainee raft, a trainee should carry their own rescue equipment. At this point, a trainee guide should be equipped as a guide and have undergone the necessary training in the use of the rescue equipment.

*(2) If a trainee guide is guiding a raft carrying passengers —*

*(a) a senior guide or a guide (who, to the satisfaction of the operator, has sufficient experience) must also be on board to manage the trainee and maintain overall control of the raft.*

This rule requires a senior guide or an experienced guide to be on board a raft if a trainee is guiding passengers. The guide on board the raft must maintain overall responsibility for the raft. The guide should be positioned in the raft to be able to assist in navigation if required. The trainee should only guide on rapids that are within the capability range of their developing skills.

If the trainee is being supervised by a guide who holds the national raft guide award, the guide is required to be able to demonstrate spare capacity, in terms of their skills and knowledge, for the river on which they are supervising. This would include having completed a similar amount of time as a guide to be eligible for assessment as a senior guide, and being very familiar with the section and level of the river.

*(b) An incident or mishap must not be simulated unless the passengers are advised of the risks, and consent is given to being involved before embarking on the raft trip.*

When passengers are on a raft guided by a trainee, they must be advised of the risk of participation in any simulated incidents. This must be established at the start of a raft trip. Passengers must be given the opportunity to board another raft or to wait on the bank if they do not want to participate in simulated incidents.

## **2.23 Subpart F – Hire of rafts (Rules 81.121, 81.122, 81.123 and 81.124)**

This subpart deals with the dry hire of rafts. These rafts fall outside the definition of commercial raft and the requirements applied to these operations are contained entirely within subpart F. The requirements do not apply to the hire of rafts between commercial rafting operations.

The intention of subpart F is to define a standard for the provision of rafts and equipment to competent customers to undertake a trip on defined sections of a river or rivers. The terms of the hire include instruction about the equipment, as well as instruction and advice about the river environment and its hazards, and how to manage them. However, these terms exclude:

- the hire of rafts to fare-paying passengers who receive a service during the river descent, such as provision of a guide or a safety boat (operators providing such services are subject to subparts A–D inclusive)
- receipt of part payment from multiple parties for the hire of rafts by the raft hire company.

Subpart F does not cover the hire of a raft without any instruction about river hazards.

The Director will undertake a biennial inspection and audit of a dry-hire operation before considering renewal of a raft-hire approval.

## General Enquiries

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All current rules and advisory circulars can be found on our website [www.maritimenz.govt.nz](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz). Printable versions can be downloaded from each rule landing page. If you are creating a full set of rules, printable versions of the cover pages and side insert tabs can be downloaded.

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