

Hiking in Mountains in Winter Conditions and on Glaciers

Specific Quality Criteria no. 203 - Checklist

4th edition 2018

Self assessment

****

**In 4th edition the specific quality criteria is based on self-assessment checklists that applicants/participants complete themselves. The applicable criteria must be completely fulfilled. A clear explanation of how each criterion is fulfilled must be given with reference to appropriate documentation e. g. employee handbook/quality manual, safety plans, photos etc. Random and/or selected criteria will be verified by the auditor.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***203-1*** | ***Safety*** | ***Yes*** | ***N/A*** | ***How fulfilled/explanation*** |
| *203-1.1* | The company has written safety plans covering all tours and services offered to customers. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.2* | Safety plans are reviewed at least once a year. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.3* | Guides are briefed on safety plans every year. The briefing is done  according to a written procedure. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.4* | The company ensures that guides operate according to safety plans. This is for example stated in employment contracts and  subcontracting agreements. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.5* | The company ensures that contingency plans are at hand on every  tour. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.6* | A checklist has been compiled for safety equipment on tours and excursions e.g.:   1. First aid kit/equipment. 2. Communication devices. 3. Tracking devices. 4. Extra clothing. 5. Whistles. 6. Shovels. 7. Lines/ropes. 8. Ice picks/axes. 9. Avalanche probes. 10. Thermal protective bags/emergency shelter. 11. Crevasse rescue equipment. 12. Other equipment according to conditions on each tour. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.7* | A written plan for renewal and maintenance of safety equipment, based on inspection/testing, accepted criteria, age and operational lifetime among other things, is in place. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.8* | The company maintains a list of all guides, working on its behalf,  employees and contractors alike, stating their education, training  and experience. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.9* | Guides have appropriate equipment and knowledge to provide accurate location and information on access routes to the area they are travelling through, in the event they have to call for assistance or rescue. The following are essential:   1. Knowledge in navigation using compass and map. 2. Knowledge in the use of GPS. 3. Knowledge of appropriate means of telecommunication in different terrains (e.g. satellite phone, mobile, two way radio-transceiver, Tetra transceiver for use in mountain regions). |  |  |  |
| *203-1.10* | Guides instruct customers regarding safety matters such as:   1. Local conditions and weather. 2. Appropriate clothing and other equipment. 3. Food, drinks and access to water during the tour. 4. Safety precautions in situations where special care must be exercised, e.g. when crossing arduous areas, glaciers and rivers. 5. Proper use of safety equipment. 6. 112 emergency phone number in Iceland. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.11* | Written rules apply to customer/guide ratio according to conditions on each tour or excursion. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.12* | The number of customers per guide does not exceed:   1. 12:1 when guiding in mountain regions or on glaciers where safety ropes are not required. 2. 8:1 when guiding on glaciers without technical difficulties where customers are linked by rope. 3. 4:1 where special climbing equipment is needed and customers are linked by (top) rope. 4. The number of customers per guide on glacier tongues (i. skriðjöklum) is based on the difficulties/risks of traversing the particular glacier, and is determined by the head guide of the company. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.13* | Guides ensure that neither the customers nor they themselves are subject to excessive noise when travelling by helicopter. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.14* | Emergency drills are conducted every year. The training is based on types of excursions and covers the following aspects among others:   1. Crevasse rescue and other types of rescue using ropes and   technical equipment.   1. Methods of rescue from cliffs. 2. Avalanche search and other emergency searches; use of   transmitters and search probes.   1. Use of emergency transport equipment such as stretchers and preparation for transport of wounded or sick individuals. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.15* | To prepare guides for the tours/activities of each day they go through a checklist including the following items, among others:   1. Details of the itinerary and routes to be travelled. 2. Aspects relating to customers’ abilities and experience. 3. Weather forecast (guides check on this prior to all departures). 4. Avalanche risk and other conditions in mountain regions. 5. Necessary equipment. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.16* | Guides regularly check customers’ well-being. If a customer shows signs of distress, reduced physical ability, hypothermia or any other signs that cause concern, the guide takes immediate action. |  |  |  |
| *203-1.17* | The company has written guidelines on when to cancel tours due to weather. |  |  |  |
| ***203-2*** | ***Environment*** |  |  |  |
| *203-2.1* | Marked roads or recognised vehicle tracks are always used. Where this is not possible, e.g. in winter, driving across areas with delicate eco-systems must be avoided, cf. the current Nature Conservation Act. |  |  |  |
| *203-2.2* | Streams and rivers are only crossed in designated places and vehicles are driven into rivers and out of them at an angle that prevents damage to riverbanks. |  |  |  |
| *203-2.3* | The company uses designated campgrounds where possible. If this is not feasible, special effort is made to ensure that no signs of the stay are left at the location. |  |  |  |
| *203-2.4* | If campfires are lit, all firewood is brought into the area, and special care taken to ensure that they are fully extinguished before departure. Existing fire pits are used wherever possible; cf. the current Nature Conservation Act. |  |  |  |
| *203-2.5* | Customers are informed about toilet arrangements and measures are taken to ensure that they follow instructions where conventional facilities are not available. |  |  |  |
| *203-2.6* | All non-biodegradable refuse and/or equipment is removed. |  |  |  |
| *203-2.7* | Customers are reminded of responsible behaviour towards the environment. |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***203-3*** | ***Education and training*** | ***Yes*** | ***N/A*** | ***How fulfilled/explanation*** |
| *203-3.1* | Guides have completed specialized training/education, e.g. are certified guides and have substantial experience appropriate for the tour in question. |  |  |  |
| *203-3.2* | Guides have completed the course *Wilderness First Responder* (WFR) from ICE-SAR or a comparable course from another organization and attend a refresher course every three years. |  |  |  |
| *203-3.3* | Guides have completed the course *Navigation* from ICE-SAR or a comparable course from another organisation. |  |  |  |
| *203-3.4* | Guides have completed the course *Basic Mountaineering* from ICE-SAR or a comparable course from another organization. |  |  |  |
| *203-3.5* | Guides have completed the course *Basic* *Avalanche Awareness* from ICE-SAR or a comparable course from another organization |  |  |  |
| *203-3.6* | Guides have completed the course *Crevasse Rescue* from ICE-SAR or a comparable course from another organisation. |  |  |  |
| *203-3.7* | Guides have completed the course *Mountain Guiding 1* from AIMG or a comparable course from another organisation.  Guides who have completed this course are exempt from completing courses according to criteria 203-3.3, 203-3.4, 203-3.5 and 203-3.6. |  |  |  |
| *203-3.8* | The head guide has completed the course *Mountain Guiding 2* from AIMG or a comparable course from another association (applicable from January 1st 2020). |  |  |  |
| *203-3.9* | The head guide has a minimum experience of two years or 100 working days as a mountain-guide. |  |  |  |
| *203-3.10* | All guides keep a log of their experience. |  |  |  |