
**Adventure tourism — Leaders —
Personnel competence**

Tourisme d'aventure — Leaders — Compétence du personnel



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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Role of the leader	2
5 Expected results	2
5.1 Compliance	2
5.2 Leading groups	3
5.3 Technical abilities	3
5.4 Managing risks	4
5.5 Responding to incidents and emergencies	4
5.6 Behaving professionally and ethically	5
6 Competencies	6
6.1 General	6
6.2 Knowledge	6
6.3 Skills	6
6.4 Attitudes or attributes	7
7 Qualifications, maintenance and improvement of competencies	7
7.1 Qualifications for leaders	7
7.2 Continuing professional development	8
7.3 Maintenance of competencies	8
Bibliography	9

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 228, *Tourism and related services*.

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO/TR 21102:2013, which has been technically revised. The main changes are as follows:

- ISO 20611 has been added as a reference in the Introduction;
- Normative references have been included in [Clause 2](#);
- Requirements have been added (previously there were recommendations) in [Clauses 4 to 7](#);
- Information on qualifications for leaders (formal and otherwise) has been added in [7.1](#).

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

0.1 Adventure tourism

Adventure tourism is a global industry that is growing in importance. Whether provided on a commercial, not for profit or charitable basis, adventure tourism activities involve an accepted, inherent element of risk and challenge. Taking risks brings rewards but also dangers. In order to maximize the rewards, adventure tourism activity providers should operate as safely as practicable.

0.2 Adventure tourism standards

The purpose of these documents is to set out the minimum requirements for safety management systems and for providing information to participants.

This document, along with ISO 20611, ISO 21101 and ISO 21103, provides a basis for adventure tourism activity providers to plan, deliver and provide information on adventure tourism activities as safely as practicable.

The following documents are independent entities since they apply to different aspects of adventure tourism:

- ISO 20611 provides requirements and recommendations on good practices for sustainability (environmental, social and economic aspects) for adventure tourism activities.
- ISO 21101 specifies how the adventure tourism organization manages its operations in terms of safety.

NOTE *ISO 21101, Adventure tourism — Safety management systems — A practical guide for SMEs* is a handbook that offers step-by-step guidance and examples to help small and medium-sized adventure tourism operators to develop, implement and continually improve a safety management system following the requirements of ISO 21101.

- This document specifies the minimum requirements and recommendations of competencies and the related expected results of competencies for adventure tourism activity leaders common to any adventure tourism activity.
- ISO 21103 specifies the minimum information to be communicated to participants and potential participants before, during and after the activity.

Effective implementation of these documents will help consumers and other participants make informed choices about activities and providers.

0.3 Purpose of this document

Adventure tourism activity leaders' competencies for leading participants and assuming responsibility for them is a critical factor in ensuring delivery of safe adventure tourism activities.

Competency is a concept that is based on knowledge, skills and attitudes or attributes.

Depending on the type of adventure tourism activity (e.g. rafting, hiking, cascading, climbing), different competencies are required. Nevertheless, there are some competencies that are common to every adventure tourism activity. These common competencies (and the respective expected results) are the focus of this document.

Adventure tourism — Leaders — Personnel competence

1 Scope

This document establishes the requirements and recommendations of competencies and the related expected results of competencies for adventure tourism activity leaders common to any adventure tourism activity, which can affect the quality and safety of the services provided. It can be used by all types and sizes of providers operating in different geographic, cultural and social environments.

This document does not apply to diving leaders, for whom References [1], [2] and [4] to [9] apply.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 20611, *Adventure tourism — Good practices for sustainability — Requirements and recommendations*

ISO 21103, *Adventure tourism — Information for participants*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

adventure tourism activity

adventure activity for tourism purposes that involves a degree of instruction or leadership and a deliberate accepted element of risk

Note 1 to entry: An accepted element of risk means that the *participant* (3.2) has a reasonable understanding of potential risks.

[SOURCE: ISO 21101:2014, 3.35, modified.]

3.2

competence

ability to apply knowledge and skills to achieve *expected results* (3.6)

[SOURCE: ISO 21101:2014, 3.11, modified.]

3.3

competent person

someone who has the *competence* (3.2) to perform specific functions

3.4

contingency measures

preventive or corrective action to be adopted in response to an event and a need to depart from the agreed plan of action