

SS 710:2024
(ICS 97.220.10; 97.220.40)

SINGAPORE STANDARD

**Code of practice for outdoor adventure
education (OAE) activities**



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Foreword

This Singapore Standard was prepared by the Working Group on Outdoor Adventure Education set up by the Technical Committee on Personal Safety and Health under the purview of the Safety and Quality Standards Committee.

This standard specifies minimum requirements and best practices for safe and responsible planning and delivery of OAE activities, including the management of risk and the prevention of injuries and fatalities.

This standard helps providers of OAE programmes to develop appropriately managed educational adventure activities for individuals and the communities, while protecting the environment and culturally significant places.

It is presupposed that in the course of their work, users will comply with all relevant regulatory and statutory requirements. Some examples of relevant regulations and acts are listed in the Bibliography. The Singapore Standards Council and Enterprise Singapore shall not be responsible for identifying all of such legal obligations.

In preparing this standard, reference was made to the following publications:

1. ANSI/ACCT 03-2019 Challenge courses and canopy/zip line tours standards
2. SS 570-1:2022 Personal protective equipment for protection against falls from height – Part 1: Single-point anchor devices
3. SS 570-2:2022 Personal protective equipment for protection against falls from height – Part 2: Flexible horizontal lifeline systems
4. SS 607:2015 Specification for design of active fall-protection systems
5. SS 681:2022 Code of practice for sport safety
6. SS 701:2023 Code of practice for inland and open water sporting activities
7. Adventure based learning (ABL) activities, Good practice guide, Version 2, 2021, Education Outdoors New Zealand, Recreation Aotearoa Te Whai Oranga
8. Best practices on emergency action plan (EAP) for outdoor adventure education (OAE) programmes & operations, 2023, Outdoor Adventure Education (OAE) Council

Acknowledgement is made for the use of information from the above publications.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this Singapore Standard may be the subject of patent rights. Enterprise Singapore shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

NOTE

1. *Singapore Standards (SSs) and Technical References (TRs) are reviewed periodically to keep abreast of technical changes, technological developments and industry practices. The changes are documented through the issue of either amendments or revisions. Where SSs are deemed to be stable, i.e. no foreseeable changes in them, they will be classified as “mature standards”. Mature standards will not be subject to further review unless there are requests to review such standards.*
2. *An SS or TR is voluntary in nature except when it is made mandatory by a regulatory authority. It can also be cited in contracts making its application a business necessity. Users are advised to assess and determine whether the SS or TR is suitable for their intended use or purpose. If required, they should refer to the relevant professionals or experts for advice on the use of the document. Enterprise Singapore and the Singapore Standards Council shall not be liable for any damages whether directly or indirectly suffered by anyone or any organisation as a result of the use of any SS or TR. Although care has been taken to draft this standard, users are also advised to ensure that they apply the information after due diligence.*
3. *Compliance with a SS or TR does not exempt users from any legal obligations.*

Code of practice for outdoor adventure education (OAE) activities

0 Introduction

OAE activities provide a platform for education in a practical environment. Skills such as critical thinking, leadership, teamwork and problem solving can all be taught and applied practically, adding depth to the education experience. This standard provides activity providers with requirements and recommendations for planning and managing these activities so that they can be conducted in a safe and effective way.

The following trends in OAE activities highlight the need for a structured approach to their planning:

- a) An increasing interest in providing education in engaging and effective ways.
- b) A strong emphasis on safety.

1 Scope

This standard is designed to help OAE activity providers deliver safe and educational experiences. It establishes a framework and describes best practices which can be used for creating or revising OAE activity programmes while highlighting the unique safety requirements for the most common outdoor adventure activity types used for educational purposes in Singapore.

This standard covers the following:

- a) Accountabilities of OAE activity providers;
- b) Responsibilities and minimum competence of programme supervisors, activity leaders and assistant activity leaders;
- c) Risk management system;
- d) Readiness of locations and facilities; and
- e) Adequacies of equipment and the minimum information to be communicated to participants and potential participants before, during and after the activity for their safety.

While the information provided in this standard may be useful in planning and managing other activities, it only covers the OAE activities explicitly mentioned.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ANSI/ACCT 03	Challenge courses and canopy/zip line tours standards
ANSI Z359	Fall protection and fall restraint
ASTM 1772	Standard specification for harnesses for rescue and sport activities
EN 12277	Mountaineering harnesses