**Hazards:** Environmental

**Equipment:** Full Guide Gear

**Personal protective equipment:**

* There is no specific requirement for personal protective equipment in this procedure. Workers must wear layers of clothing necessary to protect them from exposure to cold conditions. Workers are encouraged to wear all personal protective equipment required by the hazards of the work activity.

**Training required:**

* As per ACMG Guidelines, Helicat Canada guidelines, CAA Guidelines

**Legal requirements:**

* Avalanche risk assessment

Section 4.1.1(2) of the Regulation requires an avalanche risk assessment to be conducted before work commences in a workplace where there may be a risk from a snow avalanche to a person working there. The avalanche risk assessment must be conducted by a qualified person. Section 4.1.1(4) outlines hazards and risks that must be considered when conducting the assessment. This is not an exhaustive list — all other risks and hazards relating to a snow avalanche will need to be considered as part of the assessment.

* The purpose of the avalanche risk assessment is to determine the potential for snow avalanches to affect the workplace, and to generate options for risk mitigation. This is an investigative assessment, which includes consideration of factors such as terrain, snow conditions, and history of avalanche events.

## Safe Work Procedure

Conditions to be met before slope cutting:

1. Slope cutting should be limited to slabs no more than 20 cm deeper than ski penetration, e.g. if ski penetration is 10 cm, then no slabs over 30 cm should be targeted for slope cutting.
2. Slope cutting should be limited to terrain free of serious terrain traps and snowpack conditions unlikely to produce an avalanche larger than Size 1.5. The limit should be reduced to Size 1 if the person responsible for slope cutting does not have releasable bindings, e.g. snowboard or some telemark bindings.
3. All people in the team except the tester must be stationary and in low-risk positions.
4. At least one person must be positioned where they can watch the tester.
5. At least one person must be positioned where they can watch the locations to which the tester might get carried. This is often but not always the same person as above.
6. All people in the team must agree that the slope can be tested according to these conditions.

**Skiers Technique**

Starting at the top of the slope - cross the slope rapidly at about a 45 degree angle, aiming at an island of safety such as trees, rocks, high ground at the edge of the avalanche path and a gentler part of the slope. The first person down should do several slope cuts as they descend the top part of the slope.