

12.0 The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority

Concerns about the difficulty of identifying safety standards at Adventure Activities Centres led in 1995 to the Government introducing compulsory inspection and licensing for activity centres providing adventure activities to young people, 17 and under. The Licensing Scheme came into force on 16 April 1996 and all those who provide adventure activities that come within the scope of the Licensing Regulations 1996 must be licensed.

The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) inspects activity centres and other activity providers on behalf of the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority is an independent, cross-departmental public authority, funded by the Department for Education and Skills, and operating under the written guidance of the Health and Safety Commission. It is an independent watchdog on the delivery of outdoor adventure activities for young people.

If the Licensing Authority is satisfied that the provider complies with nationally accepted standards of good practice it will issue a licence. A full list of licenced providers can be seen on the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority web site <http://www.aala.org>

The AALA also produces a good practice guide, available on the same web site. This guide tries to identify at least one acceptable way of managing safety in a particular context. There may be other equally acceptable ways. However, following the guidance will generally be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations.

For more information form the AALA Telephone: **029 2075 5715**

For the purposes of the law the Liverpool Youth Service is classed as an 'Activity Centre' and therefore possesses an Adventure Activities Licence. This has implications for all Youth Service personnel, as they must inform the Adventure Activities Advisor for the Youth Service for any category B and C (see section 3) type activities.