

Provided by Mike Sadan, Whistler Heli-skiing, 5 October 2021

Ski testing/ski cutting HCC#11

- **Objective:** ski testing or ski cutting is commonly used to determine stability or to remove an instability in a shallow snowpack layer.
- **Qualifications:** is to be performed only by staff with appropriate training, qualifications and experience
- **Terrain Features:** only applied on short slopes and small isolated pockets where consequences are minimal.
- **Avalanche Problem Type:** used primarily for storm snow, soft wind slabs, shallow instabilities; avoided for persistent weak layers, hard wind slabs and deeper instabilities.
- **Confidence:** if there is low or moderate confidence with regard to your safety, do not start ski cutting
- **Communication:** communicate your expectations for oversight to other skiers in your group(s) as well as to any elements at risk in the runout zone.
- **Technique:** try to stay high in the start zone moving quickly from safe zone to safe zone.
- **Results:** if results are greater than expected, an assessment should be made with regard to suspending any further ski testing.
- **Observations:** record results and link any injuries or near misses to specifics of the ski cut, prior assessment of terrain and snowpack as well as operating standards.