Recreational Diving Projects

Approved Code of Practice

Health & Safety at Work (Jersey) Law, 1989

ACoP 7

Revised 2015

‘Recreational diving projects’
Approved Code of Practice ACoP 7
First published 2004
Second edition 2015

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Notice of Approval

This Approved Code of Practice, entitled 'Recreational diving projects' ACoP 7, has been approved by the States of Jersey Minister for Social Security under Article 10 of the Health and Safety at Work (Jersey) Law, 1989, ("the Law").

The Code of Practice provides practical guidance for all persons who have duties under Part 2 of the Law and are involved with recreational diving projects.

This revised edition replaces 'Recreational diving projects' Approved Code of Practice ACoP 7, which came into force on 1 July 2004.

ACoP 7

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2015

Deputy Susie Pinel

Minister for Social Security

5 May 2015

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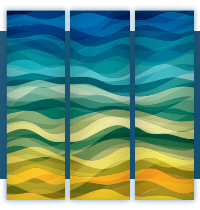


Foreword

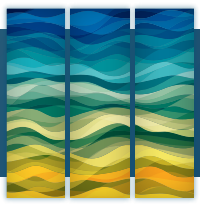
Scuba-diving is a popular leisure activity, enjoyed by people of all ages. It remains, however, a high hazard activity which requires proper planning and appropriate management of the risks to be conducted safely.

The recreational diving industry in Jersey varies in size and diversity, both in terms of the type and scale of activities undertaken. It services both locally based recreational divers who dive regularly in the waters around the Island, and visitors who often only dive occasionally, usually when on holiday and in more benign conditions.

This Approved Code of Practice, 'Recreational diving projects' (ACoP 7), has been approved by the Minister for Social Security. It provides practical guidance to persons who have duties under Part 2 of the Health and Safety at Work (Jersey) Law, 1989, (the Law), and are involved in recreational diving projects where at least one person taking part is employed or self-employed, and the equipment and techniques are confined to free swimming using SCUBA.

The Law requires you to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of yourself and others who may be affected by what you do or do not do. It applies to all work activities and everyone at work has responsibilities under it, including employees and the self-employed.

This ACoP covers both the instruction and guiding of people diving for recreational purposes where at least one person taking part is at work, for example as an instructor, and extends to include diving projects taking place in swimming pools and in the coastal waters around the Island. It does not apply to recreational diving projects where no one is at work.



An ACoP has a special legal status. It provides practical advice on how to comply with the general duties imposed by the Law. If you follow the advice you will be doing enough to comply with the Law in respect of those specific matters on which the Code gives advice.

You may use alternative methods to those set out in the Code in order to comply with the Law, however, if you are prosecuted for a breach of the Law, and it is proved that you did not follow the relevant provisions of the Code, you will need to show that you have complied with the Law in some other way or a court may find you at fault.

This revision of the 2004 edition of the ACoP is based on the UK Health and Safety Executive ACoP entitled 'Recreational diving projects', L105(second edition), published 2014. It simplifies some of the information provided in the original ACoP and reflects changes in technology and industry practice. Health and Safety Inspectors seeking to secure compliance with the Law will refer to this ACoP as illustrating the standards to be met.

Tammy Fage
Director of Health and Safety

Interpretation

1 In this code, 'Recreational diving projects' (ACoP 7), unless the context otherwise requires:

2 'Diver' means a person at work who dives.

3 'At work' means as an employee or as a self-employed person. The phrase covers divers who dive as part of their duties as an employee and divers who are in business on their own account during the time that they devote themselves to work as a self-employed diver. Diving does not have to be the main work activity of the employee or the self-employed person.

4 A person 'dives' if he enters water and in order to survive in such an environment he breaths in air or other gas at a pressure greater than atmospheric pressure.

5 'Diving project' is the term used for the overall diving job - whether it lasts two hours or two months. It means any activity made up of one or more diving operations. A number of diving projects could take place on one site at the same time. Each of these projects could be separate from the others, and each could have a separate diving contractor in charge. The diving project will finish when the diving contractor has ensured that every diver has been safely recompressed.

6 'Diving operations' can be made up of either a number of dives or, sometimes, a single dive. A diving operation should be that portion of a diving project identified in the diving project plan which one supervisor can safely supervise. One supervisor must be appointed for each diving operation.

7 Diving operations in the context of this Code are likely to be individual lessons led by an instructor or single dives led by a dive guide (this will

usually be the supervisor). The diving contractor and the supervisor could be the same person. When deciding the size and structure of the proposed diving operation, the diving contractor should take into account factors such as the type of instruction or dive, the nature of the lesson or the aim of the dive, the experience of the students or divers and the dive site location. The diving contractor will also need to be satisfied that they allocate themselves a manageable team.

8 All these points and others should be taken into account when preparing the diving project plan. Supervisors should not participate in a diving operation which they consider to be unsafe because insufficient supervisors have been appointed or which they are not competent to supervise.

9 The use of compression chambers within diving projects is covered by this Code. However, those receiving hyperbaric treatment at a hospital or other place are outside the scope of this document. This is to avoid duplication of responsibilities when another authority is involved in the medical treatment of a diver.

10 The term 'person' used to identify the diving contractor under this Code means a person with legal identity. An individual would be a person within the meaning of this term and so would a company.

Clients and others

11 There are a number of people whose activities can have an involvement with or impact on the conduct of a diving project and who therefore have responsibilities for ensuring that the Code is complied with in relation to matters under their control. These people include the owners of dive sites, the operators of vessels being used as part of the diving project, and a client for whom the work is being carried out.

Dive site owners

12 Owners of a dive site should:

(a) highlight any known hazards or difficulties which could affect the safety of the diving project, such as underwater obstructions, water intakes or discharges, and possible contamination;

(b) ensure that any equipment or activities under their control do not affect the safety of the diving project.

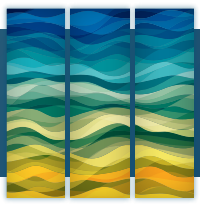
Vessel operators

13 Operators of vessels used in a diving project should:

(a) ensure that any equipment under their control does not adversely affect the safety of the diving project;

(b) keep the diving contractor and supervisor informed of any changes in circumstances which may affect the safety of the diving project;

(c) co-operate with the diving contractor and supervisor to enable their obligations under the Code to be fulfilled.



14 Everyone who is involved in the planning and organisation of a diving project has a responsibility to:

(a) take reasonable steps to ensure that any diving contractor selected is capable of complying with the Code;

(b) provide sufficient detail of the content of the diving project to allow it to be carried out safely;

(c) highlight any known hazards or difficulties which could affect the safety of those engaged in the diving project, such as underwater obstructions, water intakes or discharges, and possible contamination;

(d) ensure that any equipment or activities under the control of the client do not affect the safety of the diving project;

(e) provide adequate resources to enable the diving contractor to perform their duties under the Code;

(f) co-operate with the diving contractor and supervisor to enable the diving contractor's obligations under the Code to be fulfilled.

15 The duty under this Code also extends to diving contractors, supervisors, divers, and to people indirectly involved in the diving project such as dive site operators.

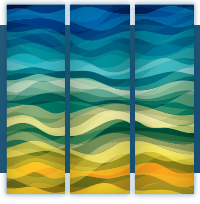
Diving contractors

16 The Code requires that one person is identified as the diving contractor for every diving project. The main duties of the Code are placed on the diving contractor.

17 Often in the situations covered by this Code, the diving contractor will be a self-employed instructor or dive guide. But in some situations, the diving contractor could be the employer of instructors, for example, where the diving contractor is the proprietor of a diving school or the employer of the dive guide. Where such an employer has a legal duty to act as the diving contractor, they could carry this out by instructing a suitable person with expertise in diving matters to discharge some of the specialist duties on their behalf, although the duty to appoint a supervisor is personal to the diving contractor. The person instructed to carry out the duties must be competent to perform them.

18 'Competence' means having a combination of training, knowledge and experience which enables a person to do the job required in a safe manner. Evidence of past experience in organising a diving project in a safe and effective manner, and appropriate qualifications, would be ways of demonstrating competence. The person selected will also need the authority and resources effectively to discharge those duties. The duties will remain with the employer, who should be satisfied that the person selected will be able to perform the duties on their behalf without risk to that person or the dive team.

19 There must only ever be one diving contractor for any diving project. This means that where a group of self-employed people are working together, they should jointly agree and nominate, in writing, one of them to accept the role and responsibilities of the diving contractor. This person must be competent to perform the duties of the diving contractor. This appointment must be recorded in writing.



20 The diving contractor has overall responsibility for the safety of the diving project. This includes ensuring that:

(a) a suitable risk assessment and diving project plan have been prepared which identify the number of supervisors, divers and equipment needed (see the section 'Diving project plan and risk assessment');

(b) the size and abilities of the dive team are sufficient to enable the diving project to be carried out safely (see the section 'Dive teams and associated working practice');

(c) the place from which the diving is to be carried out is suitable and safe;

(d) supervisors are appointed in writing (this must be done by the diving contractor) for the diving operation which they are to supervise and are supplied with copies of their formal appointment and the part of the diving project plan relevant to their operation;

(e) a sufficient number of suitably qualified personnel are used and that they are competent to undertake the tasks assigned to them. Members of the team who are not at work and who are allocated duties under the Code must be competent to perform them (see the sections 'Supervisors' and 'Divers and persons who dive in a diving project');

(f) the team is medically fit to dive (see the section 'Medical checks');

(g) the supervisor and dive team are fully briefed on the project and aware of the contents of the diving project plan;

(h) suitable plant and equipment are provided and are properly maintained (see sections 'Diving plant' and 'Maintenance of diving plant');

(i) adequate arrangements exist for emergencies, including first aid and medical treatment (see the section 'Dive teams and associated working practice');

(j) an up-to-date record is kept for each diving operation;

(k) all other relevant sections of the Code are complied with.

Diving project plan and risk assessment

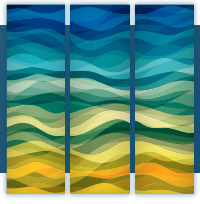
The diving project plan

21 The diving contractor is responsible for ensuring that before the start of the diving project a suitable risk assessment and diving project plan have been prepared. The diving contractor may take on the task of preparing the diving project plan or ask the supervisor to prepare one. In any event, the diving contractor must check that a diving project plan has been prepared and completed in advance for each diving project and is suitable and sufficient for each diving project under their responsibility.

22 The diving project plan may refer to information from standard manuals and recommendations for safe diving made by the appropriate recreational diving organisation as well as the diving contractor's own generic diving rules. A copy of any part of the diving project plan relevant to their operation should be provided to the supervisor.

23 This standard information, applicable to each of the diving contractor's projects, should be supplemented with a site-specific risk assessment, detailing any special precautions or procedures necessary to reduce the risk and listing specific emergency actions and contacts. A reconnaissance of the site is the best way to make the site-specific plan and to assess the risks. The diving project plan should include the quickest means of communicating with the emergency services, and contact arrangements for the emergency services, doctor and decompression illness specialist medical advice. Both the risk assessment and the diving project plan should be documented.

24 The diving project plan should specifically identify how the diving project is broken down into individual operations which can safely be supervised by one person. When making this decision the diving contractor should take into account the size and nature of the diving project.



25 The diving contractor should check that the divers are competent to dive to the depth required by the diving project plan.

Risk assessment

26 For divers who instruct others, the objective may be to achieve a specified task at a fixed location, for example a swimming pool. However, more commonly the objective is actually to perform the dive or training drill and, within given parameters, the precise location is unimportant.

27 In these circumstances the supervisor is normally responsible for confirming that the chosen dive site is suitable, although the diving contractor has the overall responsibility to ensure that the diving project is planned, managed and conducted in a manner which protects everyone taking part. The diving contractor should therefore ensure that a risk assessment has been done. The following factors should be taken into account in assessing the dive site:

(a) water conditions, including wave motion, movement, depth, temperature, visibility, weather, daylight and bottom type;

(b) pollution of the water or atmosphere;

(c) access to and from the water/boat/platform;

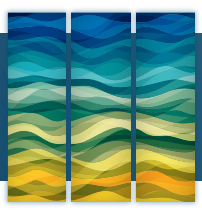
(d) the type of equipment and breathing mixture being used;

(e) the depth and planned duration;

(f) the task or training drill to be performed and the experience level of those participating, including those who are not at work;

(g) emergency procedures, including the location and proximity to emergency facilities and medical expertise.

28 This is not a complete list of all hazards and measures needed to control risks. An appraisal of the hazards at a specific dive site will identify the full extent of the safeguards needed to protect the safety of the dive team.



29 As a matter of safe working practice, the supervisor should keep the site-specific risk assessment under review to ensure that it is adequate and does not need to be revised.

30 A risk assessment made under this Code will cover in part the obligation made under Part 2 of the Law to make an assessment. There will be no need to repeat those aspects of the assessment, so long as they remain valid, in any other assessment that the diving contractor carries out. However, the diving contractor will need to ensure that all significant risks not covered by the diving project assessment (including risks to members of the public arising from the diving project/diving activities) are also taken into account.

Technical diving

31 Technical diving is a discipline where special methods and equipment are used to improve diver safety and performance, enabling the user to conduct dives in environments and perform tasks beyond the scope of traditional recreational diving techniques.

32 Technical diving uses particular SCUBA-diving techniques which are considered to be high hazard activities and which require additional precautions to be taken to minimise the risk so far as is reasonably practicable. People at work conducting technical diving operations for recreational divers should meet the requirements of their recognised recreational diving organisations under whose direction they conduct their activity. Provided such requirements are met, it is recognised that on balance the additional risk involved will be reasonably controlled and enough safety measures will be provided for those members of the public who decide to participate in these activities.

Decompression procedures

33 Decompression procedures (including the use of a decompression computer) should be appropriate for the type of diving technique undertaken and their use included in the diving project plan.

All decompression procedures should be designed to take into account the risks of a particular type of dive and should include the various rules and procedures needed in order to reduce the risk of decompression illness.

Dive teams and associated working practice

Dive teams

34 The diving contractor should identify the minimum size of team for a safe diving operation based on the requirements of the risk assessment and diving project plan. The team should be of a sufficient size to comply with the risk assessment and the diving project plan and to enable the diving operation to be completed safely. For recreational diving instruction this needs to take into account the number of 'trainees' and appropriate instructor-to-student ratios in the water.

35 The decision on instructor-to-student ratios should be linked back to the findings of the risk assessment and should not exceed the recommended levels of the appropriate recreational diving organisation. Where qualified people are being guided or are under instruction, the appropriate instructor-to-student ratio depends upon the site conditions and the nature of any exercise being undertaken.

36 The absolute minimum team size for a dive using recreational techniques is three, one person on the surface and two in the water. The acceptability of this number must be based on the risk assessment and diving project plan. One of these three people should be the supervisor. The supervisor is normally the most experienced and well-qualified diver in the team and in a team of three will normally be leading the dive underwater.

37 The two divers in the water should be capable of rendering assistance to each other in the event of an emergency under water. Under specific circumstances, one of these divers can be a student undergoing training, provided that they have been trained in rescue techniques, have been assessed as competent to carry out rescue techniques and have reached the minimum competency level required for this task set out by the appropriate recreational diving organisation.

38 The person on the surface does not have to be someone able to dive but they should be familiar with the diving project plan and the arrangements for obtaining assistance in the event of an emergency.

39 All the people who form part of the dive team must be competent to discharge the duties they hold. The UK Health and Safety Executive approves certain qualifications for recreational diving which indicate that a minimum level of competence has been assessed. Qualifications alone do not always demonstrate fitness to undertake a task. The diving contractor has a duty to engage competent people, which may require that the dive team's competence is verified or demonstrated.

40 The supervisor should decide upon a common system of signals to be used between all personnel involved in the operation, and ensure that everyone is familiar with this system. This should be done before the start of the diving operation for which they are responsible, and recorded in the diving project plan.

Pools and tanks

41 In certain circumstances, when diving in pools and tanks, the minimum team size can be two and there is no requirement for a person on the surface. One of the two must be the supervisor. However, the diving project and risk assessment must identify the circumstances where it will be safe to have a team of two and set out the measures needed to ensure that the operation takes place without risk to themselves or those taking part.

42 The second person in the team should be immediately available, on the surface or in the water, in a position to render assistance. This second person, under specific circumstances, can be a student undergoing training. They should be familiar with the diving project plan and the arrangements for emergencies. They should also be trained in rescue techniques and have been assessed as competent to carry them out and should be able to assist in an emergency. The second person should meet the minimum competency level required by the appropriate recreational diving organisation.

First-aid training and competencies

43 The diving contractor is responsible for ensuring that enough people in the diving project are trained and competent in first-aid. The risk assessment should identify the first-aid equipment required on site and the number of qualified personnel needed to use it.

44 The risk assessment should take into account the type of diving taking place, the size of the team and the distance of the dive site from the emergency services. It is sensible to have more than one person in the team qualified in first-aid in case that person becomes injured. Those who are qualified should not hold other important duties which could conflict with the need to administer first-aid in an emergency.

45 Those identified in the dive team as being qualified to give first-aid should be able to:

(a) recognise symptoms of decompression illness and provide appropriate first-aid treatment prior to and during transfer to a decompression facility;

(b) administer oxygen to an unconscious patient;

(c) perform resuscitation using the techniques of artificial ventilation (AV) and external cardiac compression (ECC);

(d) recognise the symptoms of shock and provide appropriate first-aid treatment;

(e) administer appropriate first-aid treatment for burns, bleeding and broken bones.

46 There are situations where some members of the dive team should have additional training in first-aid. The need for additional training may arise where remoteness from local emergency medical services means there is a need to maintain life until the emergency medical services are able to assume responsibility; or where the diver requiring first-aid is inside a compression chamber and medical assistance cannot be provided by normal emergency medical services.

Diving plant

47 The equipment necessary to perform the dive safely and without risk to health depends on the type and location of the dive and should be set out in the diving project plan.

48 For normal open water diving activities the diver should be provided with a sufficient supply of pure breathing gas, adequate exposure protection and a means of controlling/adjusting buoyancy. The breathing gas will normally be air but could also be a gas mixture or pure oxygen for decompression. Breathing gases should comply with the appropriate National, European or International standards.

49 Minimum equipment to be provided for each diver should be in accordance with the requirements of the appropriate recreational diving organisation and includes:

(a) breathing gas cylinder(s), cylinder valve(s) and manifold (if required);

(b) carrying frame (backpack or harness);

(c) demand regulator (pressure reducer (first stage) and demand valve (second stage));

(d) mouthpiece assembly and a half mask, or full face mask, or diving helmet;

(e) fins;

(f) at least one of the following safety devices: pressure gauge; reserve valve; or active warning device;

(g) appropriate alternative breathing gas source/secondary life support system with adequate capacity to allow the diver to reach a place of safety;

(h) submersible depth gauge;

(i) submersible timing device;

(j) underwater compass;

(k) suitable cutting tool;

(l) buoyancy control device (BCD);

(m) quick-release weight belt or other means of providing positive buoyancy in an emergency;

(n) adequate exposure protection (wet suit or dry suit) appropriate for local diving conditions.

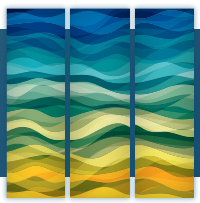
50 Some of these items may not be needed when diving in a swimming pool or tank. The diving project plan will need to specify what is appropriate.

51 Where voice communications are used, the equipment should enable each diver to communicate with the supervisor, and when working as a buddy pair, for each diver to communicate with each other.

Dealing with emergencies

52 For each diving project the risk assessment should include a suitable casualty evacuation plan. This should include the emergency recovery of a casualty from the water and their transportation to a chamber or specialist treatment centre. The details of the emergency arrangements should be recorded in the diving project plan. The initial stages of these arrangements should be tested periodically in order to ensure that they are effective.

53 A suitable first-aid kit and oxygen administration set should be provided at the site of the dive. Oxygen should be immediately available at all locations covered by this Code, including those where there is a compression chamber. Sufficient gas should be provided for the duration of a transfer of a diver to a compression chamber, hospital or other place. It should be provided by a tight-fitting mask or by a mouthpiece with a nose clip.



Maintenance of diving plant

54 Diving plant and equipment is used under extreme conditions, including frequent immersion in salt water. It therefore requires regular inspection, maintenance and testing to ensure that it is fit for use, and not damaged or suffering from deterioration.

55 In order to ensure that the equipment is maintained, the diving contractor should have a written scheme of equipment maintenance and inspection. All plant and equipment should be checked by a competent person immediately before use and this check entered in the diving operation record.

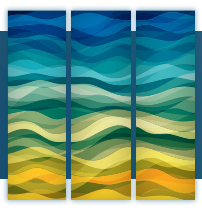
56 The equipment maintenance scheme should be based upon the manufacturers' recommendations and be in accordance with appropriate National, European or International standards.

57 Gas cylinders should be subjected to periodic internal visual inspection and hydrostatic testing in accordance with the appropriate National, European or International standards.

58 All maintenance should be carried out by a competent person. Written inspection and maintenance records should be kept.

59 The diving contractor should ask divers using their own diving equipment to confirm that it has been serviced in accordance with the appropriate equipment supplier's service schedule and that all the cylinders have been tested for fitness-for-use in order to meet their requirements under the Law. Prior to the dive, this should be confirmed to the supervisor and recorded in the diving operation record for their operation.

60 The diving contractor should also ensure that, before the start of the diving operation, divers will be asked to carry out a pre-dive visual



inspection and check of their equipment to ensure that it is in a serviceable condition and working correctly.

61 Where breathing and similar equipment is likely to be shared, appropriate disinfection procedures should be used.

Supervisors

Supervisor's appointment

62 A supervisor must be appointed in writing by the diving contractor. Normally, given the smaller size and shorter duration of typical diving projects using recreational diving techniques, one supervisor should be sufficient. However, if a diving project is complex or taking place over such an area or time-scale that its operation cannot be safely supervised by one supervisor, then the project should be divided up and further supervisors should be appointed for specific operations. Enough supervisors must be appointed to cover the entire diving project.

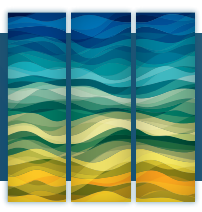
63 Written appointments should clearly define the times and areas of control. The supervisor must have immediate overriding control of all safety aspects for the diving operation for which they are appointed.

64 During the period of appointment the supervisor should not leave the dive site or dive without formally handing over to another supervisor. The hand-over should be entered in the diving operation record.

Supervisor's competency

65 In order to be appointed as a supervisor the individual concerned should hold an appropriate qualification from their recreational diving organisation which indicates that they are qualified in dive leadership and organisation, rescue management and the recognition and treatment of diving-related injuries.

66 Before appointing a supervisor the diving contractor should ensure that, in addition to possession of the appropriate qualification, the individual concerned has relevant previous experience and can be considered competent to supervise the specific diving operation to be undertaken.



Supervisor's responsibility

67 The supervisor has legal responsibility for the safety of the diving operation they are supervising and should be on site, in direct control of the diving operation taking place. This includes confirming that:

(a) the proposed dive site and the water and weather conditions are suitable;

(b) the risk assessment is still valid for the circumstances on the day of the dive;

(c) all relevant authorities are aware that a diving operation is in progress, and all the necessary permits and permissions have been obtained;

(d) the equipment provided is appropriate, adequate and has been checked by a competent person prior to use and recorded in the diving operation record;

(e) the personnel they are supervising are qualified and competent to perform the tasks required of them and that as far as the supervisor is able to ascertain, they are fit to undertake the task that they are assigned;

(f) the diving project plan and arrangements for dealing with foreseeable emergencies are clearly understood by all those engaged in the diving operation. This would normally be ensured by a pre-dive briefing session with all those involved;

(g) proper records of the diving operation are maintained. As a minimum this would include a description of the dive, the names of those taking part and their dive qualifications, the date, time and location, maximum depth attained by each diver and their bottom time or dive time, the decompression schedule being used and a record that the equipment has been checked prior to the dive.

Supervisor diving with the team

68 Recreational dive instructors and dive guides are permitted to dive as supervisors with their team in any location. The risk assessment

and diving project plan should take this into account and identify the measures needed to ensure the safety of the operation, especially the assignment of a dedicated person on the surface.

Directions

69 As the person in charge, the supervisor may give reasonable instructions to any person taking part in the diving operation. This includes students under instruction or those being guided.

Divers and persons who dive in a diving project

Competence

70 Divers covered by this Code should be competent to dive with a buddy who should also be competent for the conditions likely to be encountered in open water using recreational diving equipment. They should:

(a) have a good understanding of diving physics and physiology and decompression;

(b) be able to recognise the signs and symptoms of diving-related injuries in themselves and others, initiate appropriate treatment and carry out a diver rescue, including the performance of resuscitation techniques;

(c) be able to initiate appropriate actions in the event of an emergency;

(d) be competent to operate any special equipment being used.

Qualifications

71 All divers at work must hold an approved diving qualification suitable for the work they intend to do. A list of current approved qualifications is available on the HSE diving website: www.hse.gov.uk/diving

72 Additional competences and qualifications are required for some tasks. All instructors should have an appropriate instructor qualification. In order to teach diving using mixed gases or rebreathers, an appropriate instructor qualification in that technique is needed. Diving using rebreathers requires not only a qualification in the general understanding of the dive technique but an additional qualification in the specific type of rebreather endorsed by the manufacturer.

73 Students under instruction or those being guided have a responsibility to co-operate with the supervisor and to follow any reasonable directions and instructions that the supervisor gives.

74 All the dive team should thoroughly familiarise themselves with the equipment used in the diving operation. This should be done before the operation commences. This routine safety check should also be carried out by any students diving with the team.

75 Diving logs should include as a minimum the particulars recommended by the appropriate recreational diving organisation's standards manual. The logs should be accurate and reflect the information contained in the diving operation record.

Medical checks

Fitness

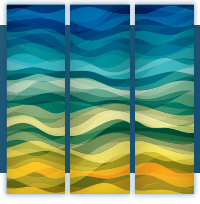
76 Any person who dives whose medical fitness may be in doubt for any reason, for example fatigue, minor injury, recent medical treatment or taking any medication, must inform their supervisor. Even a minor illness, such as the common cold or a dental problem, can have serious effects on a diver under pressure, and should be reported to the supervisor before the start of a dive. Medications routinely taken may have significant side effects in hyperbaric environments. Supervisors should seek guidance from the diving contractor or the company's medical adviser if there is doubt about that person's fitness to dive.

Medicals

77 All divers at work must have a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive. The certificate of medical fitness to dive is a statement of the diver's fitness to perform work under water, and is valid for as long as the doctor certifies, up to a maximum of 12 months.

78 Where an annual medical examination is carried out less than a month before the expiry of the current medical certificate to dive, the start of the new certificate may begin from the expiry date of the current certificate.

79 The medical examination and assessment looks at the diver's overall fitness to dive. This includes the main systems of the body - cardiovascular system, respiratory system and central nervous system - as well as the ears, nose and throat, vision, dentition, and the person's capacity for exercise.



80 The UK Health and Safety Executive approves doctors to carry out diving medical examinations. Doctors are selected for approval based on their training in underwater medicine and their knowledge of diving. This approval is limited in duration, usually for one or two years.

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Buddy
A buddy is the term given to a dive partner who in an emergency situation would be available to provide assistance to the other diver.

Competence
Competence means having a combination of training, knowledge and experience which enables a person to do the job required in a safe manner.

Hazard
A hazard is something with the potential to cause harm. This may include water, environmental factors, plant, and methods of diving and other aspects of work organisation.

Risk
A risk is the possibility that someone will be harmed by an identified hazard. The extent of the risk includes the numbers of people who might be affected by the risk.

AV
Artificial ventilation.

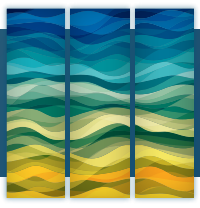
BCD
Buoyancy control device.

DCI
Decompression illness.

ECC
External cardiac compression.

HSE
Health and Safety Executive.

SCUBA
Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.



Further information

Further information on the application of this ACoP, or advice on the guidance set out in this publication, may be obtained by contacting the States of Jersey Health and Safety at Work Inspectorate, Social Security Department, PO Box 55, Philip Le Feuvre House, La Motte Street, St Helier, Jersey JE4 8PE.

Telephone: (01534) 447300

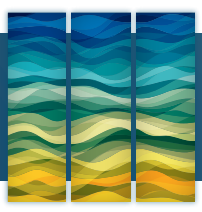
Facsimile: (01534) 873791

Email: hsi@gov.je

This publication is available at www.gov.je/hsi

The legal requirements set out under Part 2 of the HSW Law, can be viewed on the Jersey Legal Information Board website: www.jerseylaw.je

Guidance to the HSW Law is available on the Health and Safety at Work website: www.gov.je/hsi



States of Jersey

Health and Safety at Work Inspectorate
Social Security Department
P.O. Box 55
Philip Le Feuvre House
La Motte Street
St. Helier
Jersey JE4 8PE

Tel: 01534 447300
Fax: 01534 873791
E-mail: hsi@gov.je
Website: www.gov.je/hsi

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