

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Occupational diving operations

Part 3: Recreational industry diving and snorkelling operations

AS/NZS 2299.3:2003

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF-017, Occupational Diving. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 16 December 2002 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 13 December 2002. It was published on 8 January 2003.

The following are represented on Committee SF-017:

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Australian Dive Council
Australian Industry Group
Australian Marine Sciences Association
Australian Medical Association
Australian Seafood Industry Council
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF-017, Occupational Diving.

This Standard is intended to be Part of a series of Standards for the conduct of occupational diving operations. Diving operations which fall into the scope of this sector-specific Standard may be conducted using either this Standard or AS/NZS 2299.1 which covers diving operations in general.

This Standard is based on the April 1997 version of a draft code of practice for the recreational diving industry prepared over many years by Dive Australia. The Dive Australia draft was developed to take into account the *Code of Practice for Recreational Diving and Recreational Snorkelling at a Workplace* developed by the Queensland Division of Workplace Health and Safety. Later documents, including the 1999 report on the review of workplace health and safety arrangements for recreational diving in Queensland and the Queensland Industry Code of Practice released in November 1999, have also been taken in account in preparing this Standard. The Committee based requirements for enriched air nitrox (EANx), other mixed gases, rebreather and decompression diving on the equivalent text in Queensland Industry Code of Practice for Recreational Technical Diving released in September 2001.

It should be noted that terminology differences exist between this Standard and the Queensland Code of Practice for Recreational Technical Diving. This Standard defines the term 'mixed gas' differently by including EANx in its coverage. It also uses the term 'technical diving' to a lesser extent, using more specific terms in the text to identify which type of diving is being covered in any particular clause or section.

The industry documents have been reworked as a Standard from their previous recommendatory style to contain requirements that have to be met if one wants to be in compliance with the objectives and intent of the Standard. The term 'shall' is used to indicate these requirements. It should be remembered that the requirements in an Australian/New Zealand Standard are not mandatory for legal purposes unless incorporated specifically as such by an Act or regulation.

By contrast, the term 'should' implies a recommendation. Compliance with a Standard can still be achieved without necessarily meeting all of the recommendations. Where recommendations are given, they normally point to generally accepted good practice in the industry concerned and, therefore, should be taken into consideration.

The term 'practicable' has been removed as practicability is usually covered under New Zealand, Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies requirements and offers practical guidance for the personnel, equipment and procedures for recreational diving operations using air or mixed gases as the compressed breathing gas supplied through self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA), for recreational diving operations using rebreathers and for recreational snorkelling where these activities occur in a workplace.

This Standard does not apply to—

- (a) any recreational diving using compressed air, recreational snorkelling or recreational mixed gas diving performed by persons who are not at a workplace; and
- (b) diving operations (including with surface-supplied breathing apparatus (SSBA)) at a workplace where the diving operations are not for the purpose of the training or supervision of recreational divers and snorkellers, for which other Standards may apply.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide persons engaged in, or connected with, recreational diving and snorkelling at a workplace with a set of requirements and guidance to prevent and control risks arising from these activities.

1.3 APPLICATION**1.3.1 Recreational diving at a workplace using compressed air**

Section 2 of this Standard applies to recreational diving activities at a workplace using compressed air and includes requirements for the following persons:

- (a) The employer of a person employed as, a person employed as, or a person self-employed as—
 - (i) a dive coordinator;
 - (ii) a dive supervisor;
 - (iii) a dive instructor;
 - (iv) rescue personnel; or
 - (v) a lookout.
- (b) A person in control of a workplace (including the master of a vessel) where recreational diving using compressed air takes place.
- (c) A non-employee (including a member of the public) who engages in recreational diving using compressed air at a workplace.